





# Girl aged 9 tells of rape by 10-year-olds

Adrian Lee hears primary school pupil tearfully describing the day five classmates dragged her into the lavatories and assaulted her

A PRIMARY school pupil told a court yesterday that she was hured into the boys' lavatory by a group of nine and ten-year-old classmates and raped three times as she tried to scream to a teacher for help.

The girl, who was aged nine at the time of the alleged attack in May last year, broke down as she gave evidence on a video link at the Old Bailey. Tearing at a tissue, she spoke in a whisper at times and had to be coaxed by the prosecution to give intimate details of events alleged to have happened during the lunch break at the school in West London.

Haltingly, she described being stripped and held down by one of the boys. She said another stood guard and the others laughed as they took turns to have sex with her. Afterwards, as she was allowed to dress, she said she was warned by the boys that they would beat her if she told teachers.

Two boys, aged ten, deny rape and indecent assault. Her cousin, now aged 11, and another boy, aged 10, deny indecent assault. A fifth boy, aged nine at the time of the alleged incident, was too young to be prosecuted for rape. Mark Dennis, QC, for the prosecution, told the court the allegations came to light when the girl told her mother, who sent her to court next day with a note.

As she gave evidence on camera from another room, sitting with a court usher and a child liaison officer, the girl could see only prosecuting counsel and the judge, Mrs Justice Bracewell, through cameras on their court monitors. She gave evidence in 20 minute sessions and, at the end of the day, asked: "Can I see my mum now?"

The girl said she was leaving school at lunchtime when one of the boys snatched her coat and ran into the lavatories. She gave chase. "I stopped for a while... I went into the toilet and I saw all of them. They told me to take my clothes off."

"One boy had been speaking more than the others. Was he being friendly or nasty?" Mr

Dennis asked. "Nasty," she replied.

"I was fighting and I was trying to fight them away but when they got my clothes off [one of the boys] lay on top of me and hurt me."

The girl cried as she was asked by Mr Dennis to describe how she was raped. She said her cousin was grabbing her arm and holding it behind her back. "They were laughing. Two of them hurt me and two of them just rubbed on me."

As she was asked to give details of the rape and, at one time, asked to repeat an answer three times, the girl screamed up her face in frustration. "I was fighting. I wasn't saying anything but I was thinking, 'Off me'."

At one stage a female teacher had come and, from the door, had asked the boys what they were doing. One of the boys had told her that he was weeing and she had gone away.

She said she was pulled into a toilet cubicle and the door was shut. "I bashed my lip against the floor and it burst, then I was being held down. When I heard the teacher I was going to scream for help. When I was just about to scream my cousin said some-



An artist's impression of the scene inside the court at the Old Bailey, with Mrs Justice Bracewell and counsel watching the girl giving evidence from another room

charged with indecent assault, against [the girl] having trapped her in that small room."

He said the girl was one of 24 pupils in year five. On the morning of the alleged rape there had been another incident. The girl and a friend had been pretending to be the Spice Girls when they were

confronted by a group of boys. They had run into the lavatories and, making grunting noises, the boys had pushed the girl up against a wall before the incident was ended by the school bell.

Mr Dennis said of the later incident: "Having been pushed in she was held by five

boys, one keeping look-out at the door to make sure no teachers came by, while the others forcibly stripped her, pushed her to the ground where she was sexually assaulted."

He said that during the attack the boys were interrupted by a classroom assistant

who happened to be the mother of a fifth boy who was too young to be prosecuted.

Mr Dennis said that it was only when she had complained of soreness that night and was given a bath by her mother that the first details of the incident had begun to emerge.

The police had been informed and the girl medically examined. In August, four boys had been charged.

Mr Dennis said the boys could only be convicted if the jury accepted that they acted "knowing full well" that the girl was not willing.

The trial continues.

When I was about to scream one of them took my sleeve and tied it round my mouth

thing to one of the boys and he took my coat sleeve and tied it round my mouth." She said that when the teacher had gone "they lied on top of me". She said the boys asked their friend, who was on guard, to have a turn. "I said please don't hurt me. He said he wasn't going to hurt me because he was my friend." She said the boy, who is

## Unarmed man shot dead by police in raid

By RICHARD DUCE

AN investigation is under way after a police officer shot dead an unarmed suspect in his bedroom during an early morning raid.

Police yesterday declined to say whether a warning was given before the gun was fired. Four officers from Sussex Police's Special Operations Unit are believed to have burst into the bedroom of James Ashley's flat in Hastings as part of a series of raids to investigate drug dealing and an attempted murder. A woman who witnessed the shooting at 4am yesterday was treated for shock.

Mr Ashley, 39, who was hit in the chest, is understood to have been killed by a single bullet from a Heckler and Koch MP5 semi-automatic carbine. He had a conviction for the manslaughter of a barman who died in a brawl outside a public house in Eastbourne in 1992.

The Police Complaints Authority is to hold an inquiry headed by Assistant Chief Constable Barbara Wildin, of Kent police. However, Paul Whitehouse, the Chief Constable of Sussex, said his initial reaction was that the use of guns had been "justified".

None of the officers involved has been suspended from duty and Mr Whitehouse said that

he was confident they had followed guidelines for the use of firearms.

Friends of Mr Ashley accused police of "murder". A man handed a note to reporters that stated: "I absolutely refuse to let the police murder a friend of mine and then try to dirty his name in their own pathetic attempt to justify a ruthless killing."

Mr Ashley died during raids by 30 police on a number of properties in Hastings, which is known to have a drugs problem. Three other men were detained for questioning by police. Warrants had been issued to arrest the men for interview about cocaine dealing and the stabbing of a 37-year-old man near a pub in Hastings last week.

Mr Whitehouse said: "One of the reasons for armed officers and carrying out an operation the way we do is because we believe that the target may be violent."

"There will be circumstances when it is not possible to give a warning. Whether one was given in this case I am not prepared to say."

He said that first aid was applied immediately by the officers and by ambulance paramedics called to the flat, but Mr Ashley had been certified dead at the scene.

## Irish drug lord jailed for British heroin plot

By AUDREY MAGEE

AN Irish drug baron, who described murdered Irish journalist Veronica Guerin as "vindictive", was yesterday sentenced in London to 18 years in prison.

Tommy Mullen, 26, nicknamed "The Boxer", was jailed for conspiring to smuggle heroin from England to Ireland. Politicians and community workers in inner city Dublin were last night delighted at the verdict.

Mullen, who pleaded not guilty, was one of Dublin's most prominent heroin dealers, supplying a large section of north Dublin. He was one of the last people allegedly interviewed by Guerin, who was shot dead in June 1996, and was initially suspected of involvement in her murder. Guerin had previously interviewed him, demanding that he explain his wealth.

Mullen was arrested in London in March 1996 after police discovered him carrying £105,000 in a hold-all and subsequently uncovered £90,000 and many additional passports under his name in a safety deposit box.

Turhan Mustafa, 50, a butcher, of north London and Catherine Brooks, of east London, who both admitted conspiracy to export heroin, will be sentenced later.

## Just a fairy story, Holmes

By ROBIN YOUNG

IT IS evidence that might have been very useful to the creator of Sherlock Holmes. A first-hand explanation of a schoolgirl prank that duped Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is to be offered at auction.

The saga of the Cottingley fairies began in 1917 when two cousins, Elsie Wright, 15, and Frances Griffiths, 8, claimed to have photographed fairies at the bottom of a suburban garden. Media attention was so intense that they were too

frightened to admit their hoax and made a pact to stick by their story until the death of Conan Doyle, one of the few who believed them.

Elsie acknowledged the true story in a letter to Geoffrey Crawley, a photography expert who had exposed her methods, in 1983. The letter, to be auctioned at Christie's in March, reads: "Thank you for revealing so much depth and understanding. I was feeling sad for

Conan Doyle. We had read in the newspapers of his getting some jarring comments, first about his belief in our fairies and there was also a cruel cartoon of him in a newspaper chained to a chair with his head in a cloud, and Sherlock Holmes stood beside him.

"He had recently lost his son in the war and the poor man was probably trying to comfort himself with unworldly things."

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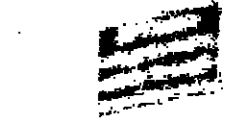
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6 HOME NEWS

Corrupt officers given 'excessive protection'

CORRUPT police officers are delaying and escaping punishment, according to a highly critical report by MPs yesterday which calls for a shake-up of the complaints system.

The Home Secretary is expected to use a highly critical MPs' report on corruption as a template for reforms. Stewart Tandler reports

The 43 recommendations by the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs also include "fast-track" disciplinary hearings for officers facing serious charges or criminal cases. Wide reforms are proposed to stop officers dodging investigation by going sick or getting ill-health pensions.



Moorhouse says that corruption is growing

The report says that corruption is growing... Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, said his force could have as many as 250 corrupt officers. The report says: "There are grounds for concern about the behaviour of some officers. This small minority is damaging to the overwhelming majority who are honest. The importance of

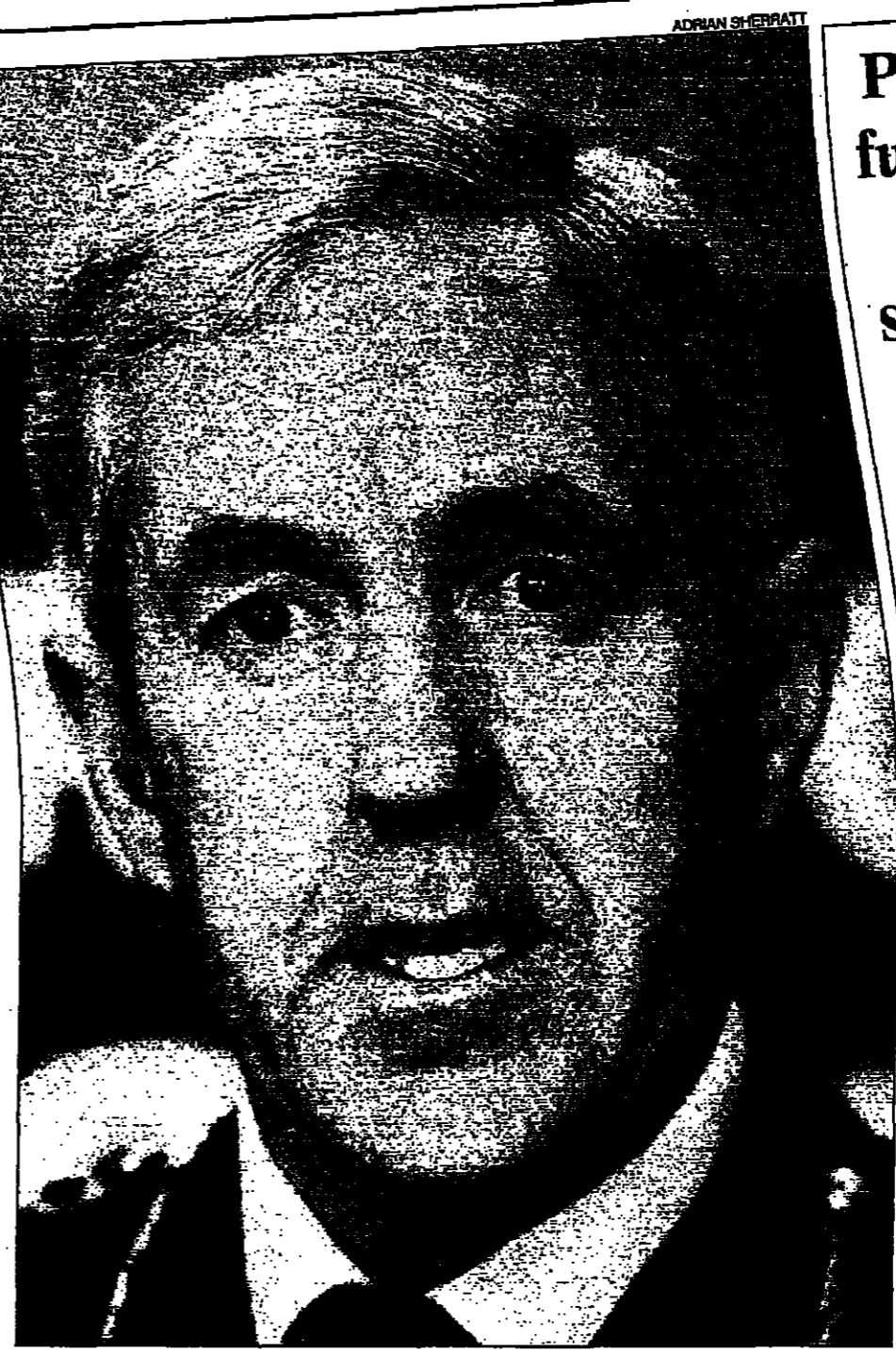
The report calls for a reduction in the burden of proof for disciplinary hearings from the criminal basis of "beyond reasonable doubt" to the civil standard of "on the balance of probabilities". However, three Conservative members, including Douglas Hogg, a former Home Office junior minister, disagreed.

The right to silence or legal representation should be reduced except for the most serious cases. The three Conservative MPs also argued for a different basis for legal representation.

At present, if an officer is acquitted in the courts, he cannot face disciplinary charges. The committee said that this rule of "double jeopardy" should be abandoned.

Setting up an independent investigation system using non-police investigators is ruled out but the report calls on the Home Office to investigate how such a unit would work. The Police Complaints Authority could make use of more outside experts and more investigations should be carried out by outside forces. The MPs say that if the present system is reformed and still lacks credibility, independent investigation will have to be seriously considered.

At present all disciplinary hearings are held in private. The committee says they should be open to the public unless there are special reasons for holding them in private.



Sir Paul yesterday: he believes the Met could have up to 250 corrupt officers

Pension funds put under strain by illness

By MARK HENDERSON

EARLY retirement on health grounds has become an epidemic at a North London council. It accounts for two-thirds of each year's retirements among employees of the Labour-run borough of Camden, putting serious strain on its pension fund, an internal report has found.

The trend is costing the council an average of nearly £5.5 million a year, amounting to £27.4 million over the past five years. Employees leaving on health grounds also take an average of 100 days' sick leave during the year prior to their retirement, further stretching the council budget.

The report by Steve Bundred, the chief executive, comes after a damning investigation of early retirement by the Audit Commission last November, which found widespread abuse at a serious cost to council taxpayers. On average, 39 per cent of council retirements were early, costing £5.7 billion. Last year more than half the 42,000 retirements in local government were early on health grounds.

The use of early retirement has drifted from being exceptional to becoming expected, the Audit Commission concluded. It set a national target of no more than 25 per cent of retirements coming early. Ten per cent of Camden staff work until the normal retirement ages of 65 for men and 60 for women. Conservatives in Camden said that the borough was running "a racket to benefit the staff".

Joy Silver, a Tory councillor, said: "I don't believe that the health pattern of Camden staff can be so out of line with the national trends. They are jumping on the early retirement gravy train and laughing all the way to the bank." However, Phil Turner, Labour chairman of the council's corporate service committee, said that the borough had no reason to feel ashamed. He added: "This council should not apologise for looking after staff in a decent and honourable way. That's not to say that we don't recognise that this has put considerable strain on the pension fund and the council's resources."

Detectives play the health card

By OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THREE Scotland Yard detectives who moonlighted, acting as minders for a wealthy television producer, escaped disciplinary charges by going sick and leaving with ill-health pensions, the MPs on the home affairs committee were told.

Details of the case are given in an appendix to the committee's report to illustrate how disciplinary proceedings can be thwarted by use of the health regulations. The officers met their charge and his family at Heathrow, hired cars, acted as chauffeurs and bodyguards and even escorted the family as they jogged.

In November The Times reported that two of the officers, citing stress, set up a private investigation agency. They are Tom Bradley, a detective sergeant, and Ian Martin, a detective constable. The third officer involved, Detective Constable Barry

Porter, says he is suffering from depression and anxiety brought on by his suspension and the way he was investigated. Two other officers are still suspended, having been charged with disciplinary offences.

The Yard said that Mr Bradley set up the moonlighting operation when he investigated allegations of theft by staff working for Reg Grundy, the Australian producer of Neighbours. When police began investigations all the officers went sick. Mr Bradley would have faced eight disciplinary charges.

In the appendix the Yard comments: "There remains a real concern that officers who are ostensibly mentally strong before their suspension suffer psychiatric illness immediately afterwards and yet so quickly recover following retirement to the extent they are able to function in demanding areas of employment."

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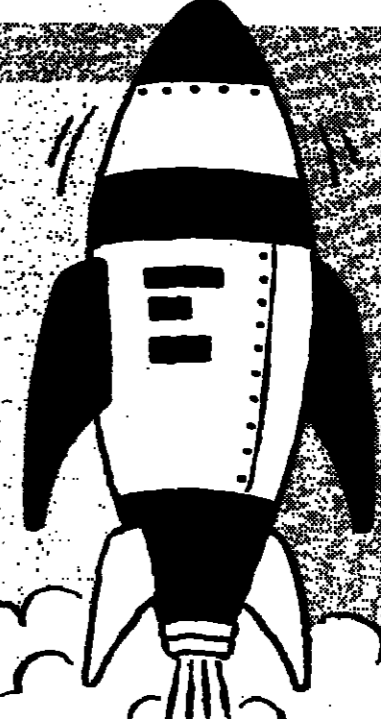
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# Gene gives clue to lethal power of chicken flu virus

SCIENTISTS have discovered a clue that may explain why the chicken flu from Hong Kong is so deadly.

A change in a key gene in the virus means that it can infect many organs of the body, not only the lungs. In birds that makes the virus lethal, killing nearly all those infected. The scientists suspect that the same change may explain why it is so dangerous to human beings.

So far the chicken flu has infected 18 people in Hong Kong: a 25-year-old woman, who fell ill before the mass slaughter of chickens in the colony, yesterday became the sixth person to die from it.

It was first found in a three-year-old boy in May and samples from him have been analysed by scientists from the US Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, and from Hong Kong and the US Department of Agriculture.

Flu viruses are characterised by two proteins on their surface, haemagglutinin and

Scientists believe virus kills by spreading from lungs to other organs, reports Nigel Hawkes

neuraminidase. The team of researchers, led by Kanta Subbarao of the Atlanta centre, studied the gene responsible for making the haemagglutinin.

They report in *Science* that they found an extra piece of DNA in the gene, a feature common in bird viruses but never before isolated from a human virus. It adds extra amino acids at exactly the point at which the protein is broken in two by enzymes in the body.

That is the key step by

which the virus gains entry into the cells of the bird, or human being. In most flu viruses the enzymes needed to break down the protein are found only in the lungs or digestive tract and most viruses can infect only cells in those organs.

But the extra amino acids may make the protein able to be broken down by enzymes found in many organs which are then infected. Robert Webster, a flu expert at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, says that that allowed the virus to spread through the bloodstream.

In chickens it infects the brain, heart and blood vessels, causing rapid death. When the US team used the virus from the boy to infect 16 chickens, all but one died.

That shows the virus remains lethal to chickens even after it has passed through a human being and raises the possibility that a few infected people travelling beyond Hong Kong could spread it to millions of chickens worldwide.

The remaining question is how a bird virus manages to infect human beings. The US team has found one clue by comparing the virus isolated from Hong Kong chickens in March with that which killed the boy. They found a difference — the loss of a carbohydrate molecule near the point at which the virus binds to cell surfaces.

That molecule is present in the bird samples but absent from the virus that infected the boy. Dr Webster speculates that the change "may have great influence" on the virus's ability to bind to human cells.

Fortunately the evidence still is that the virus cannot pass easily between human beings, limiting the chances of a global epidemic. Dr Webster told *Science* that he was delighted that Hong Kong's millions of chickens in open markets had been slaughtered.

"The slaughter was absolutely essential," he said. "The big question is whether it was done in time."



# Frozen bodies hold key to epidemic

By HELEN RUMBELow

SCIENTISTS renewed hope of tracking down one of the deadliest flu viruses last week when findings showed that the bodies of seven Norwegian men who died in the 1918 epidemic are still frozen in their graves.

The Spanish flu virus killed between 20 and 40 million people within a year. If the 1918 virus is present in the corpses, then scientists may at last be able to understand what made it so lethal, and estimate the danger of it and other "dead" viruses, such as smallpox, reappearing. An international team located the victims in Longyearbyen, a small town in the Svalbard island group.

Dr Peter Lewin, a Canadian medical archaeologist on the team, said that even if the

virus was dead, they could piece together its DNA from the genetic fingerprint it had left. If the virus was alive, there was a new danger to assess, he said. "If agents are preserved intact, not just flu but other ones such as smallpox, now we have global warming, might bodies thaw and become a danger to humanity?"

Some experts consider the chicken flu alarmingly similar to the 1918 flu virus, which killed more people than the First World War.

In 1957 a new virus, Asian flu, began to spread across the world, remaining a prevalent strain until 1968 when another virus, Hong Kong flu, was isolated. Today viruses can be stemmed by vaccination and antibiotics cut death tolls.

# Salmon season opens for ones that got away

The traffic was dreadful, the train late and a fool with BO and a loud personal stereo sat next to you. In other words, it was just another day commuting when, instead, you could have been quartering the placid waters of Loch Tay to celebrate the opening of the Tay salmon fishing season in the hush of early morning, with perhaps just a wee nip to keep out the chill. Even better, there was the prediction of record catches on the Tay this year (Gillian Harris writes). There are more than 25,000

# Salmon season opens for ones that got away

salmon running up the Tay since the removal of nets set by landowners on the lower reaches of the river. More than 100 fishermen gathered

at Kenmore on the banks of the Tay for the official opening ceremony performed by Rob Wainwright, the Scotland rugby captain, and 1,000 tried for the first fish of the season. The day may have been slightly marred by fears that a proposed fish farm might harm the wild salmon and the delicate eco-system, but the worries did not seem to make people upset enough to wish they were waiting instead for that delayed 7.15...

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Fifth life term for slow death

A man serving four life sentences for aggravated burglary and grievous bodily harm to two pensioners was given a fifth life term yesterday because one of his victims died after his original sentence. At Cardiff Crown Court, Leslie Salter, 32, admitted the murder of Enid Poole, 91, who died nine months after the attack in her flat at Barry, South Glamorgan. Salter was arrested after a reconstruction on BBC TV's *Crimewatch UK*.

### Soldier bailed

An undercover soldier questioned after a policeman was shot and critically injured in north Belfast has been released on bail. She was on surveillance as part of police moves to thwart hit-and-run loyalist gun attacks on Catholics.

### Best hotel

The Chewton Glen Hotel at New Milton, Hampshire, has been voted the best in Europe by readers of the American magazine *Condé Nast Traveler*. It was judged 15th in the world, first place being awarded to the Amandari in Bali.

### Shotgun award

A man who lost his left leg from above the knee after his brother accidentally shot him has won £325,000 damages. The brother of Timothy Chadfield, 39, from Barton in the Clay, Bedfordshire, admitted liability. He was insured.

### Crossing crash

A motorcyclist died when he crashed through a level crossing barrier into a train after overtaking a line of traffic at Swineshead Bridge near Boston, Lincolnshire. The man, who has not been named, may have been dazzled by low sun.

### Health care

The head of a primary school in Grindelford, Derbyshire, has quit his job because of stress to become a caretaker at a nearby comprehensive. Roger Butterfield, 48, earns half his old salary but says he enjoys the 37-hour week.

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Baby quilts increase chance of cot death

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

QUILTS put babies at greater risk of cot death, according to research published today. Earlier studies had found that heavier duvets are a danger, but this is the first time the loose, padded quilt has been clearly identified as a risk for children under a year old. The study of 100 babies who died in their cots found that a quilt increases the risk, especially among older children who sleep on their back or side. This was because these coverings do not tuck in, and a child over three months old is able to pull them over its face. The study by the Menzies Centre for Population Health Research, at the University of Tasmania, found that the risk attached to quilts was less for babies who slept on their stomachs, but this position is known to be more dangerous in itself. When children were laid to sleep on their backs under loose quilts, they were liable to roll over onto their stomachs in the night. Earlier research has shown conclusively that it is safer for babies to sleep on their backs. The new report appears in the British Medical Journal.



Cyril the squirrel makes fur fly on East End estate

By Michael Hornsey, Agriculture Correspondent

A GANG of grey squirrels is terrorising elderly residents of a high-rise housing estate in the East End of London. Up to 15 of the bushy-tailed vandals, led by a particularly aggressive individual dubbed Cyril by his victims, are accused of intimidation, physical assault and even house-breaking. Old people who live in the Willoughby and Parry tower blocks in Wapping say that they are afraid to go out in case they find the animals waiting for them outside their doors. The list of charges levelled at the squirrels includes rifling through unattended shopping bags, scratching people, stowing nuts without permission in flowerpots and infiltrating bedrooms. Ellen Carroll, a Willoughby resident, said: "We are fed up with them. We have a number of old people who are really frightened. They will rush up at you or run down the stairs at you. They are around most of the day. They go into people's houses. We're talking about people finding them sitting on their sinks. I have even heard of them nipping people." Jack Birch, a Parry resident, said: "One young girl has been scratched. They have actually jumped one or two people. I have been in touch with the RSPCA but they say that even catching them and taking them somewhere else is illegal." A local councillor, John Briggs, said: "I am aware of at least one incident where a man found two squirrels under his bed, and it scared the life out of him." Andy Lewis, chief environmental health officer for Tower Hamlets, said: "I have never come across this in my 20-odd years working in a city. We are aware of the problem, but we have no experience of dealing with squirrels."

Criminal tendencies evident in childhood

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

MANY future delinquents can be identified by the time they are seven by their aggressive behaviour and the ineffective way their parents are bringing them up, according to a survey published today. Conduct disorder is the commonest childhood psychiatric condition affecting 9 per cent of the urban population and 4 per cent of the rural population, Stephen Scott, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, says. Three times more boys than girls show typical symptoms of temper tantrums, according to the survey in the British Medical Journal. As they get older these children bully, fight, carry and use knives, mistreat animals, mug, take drugs, play truant, run away from home and commit arson. A third are dyslexic and most have an IQ as many as ten points lower than their peers. "The difficulties would matter less if most children grew out of it," the survey says. "However, 40 per cent of seven and eight-year-olds with conduct disorder become recidivist delinquents as teenagers; and over 90 per cent of recidivist juvenile delinquents had conduct disorder as children." By the time they become adults they are fixed in a pattern of violence, dishonesty, drink-driving and unemployment. Treatment needs to start early because it is hard to eradicate later, the survey says. A strong home background is essential. Teachers have to be taught techniques to reduce disruptive behaviour and parents must learn how to praise their children.

Life on Mars theory comes down to Earth

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

TRACES of life found in a meteorite from Mars are only contamination, "picked" up when it landed in Antarctica, according to a new analysis. Scientists say that the amino acids in it are very similar to those in the ice at Allan Hills in Antarctica, where the meteorite lay for 13,000 years before being discovered in 1984. A second study also suggests that carbon in the meteorite comes from the Earth. Ever since it was claimed in August 1996 that life existed on Mars, controversy has raged. President Clinton greeted it as "one of the most stunning insights into our world that science has ever uncovered" but some scientists were openly sceptical. These latest results, although they do not rule out the possibility of life on Mars, certainly make it very much less likely. A team led by Jeffrey Bada of Scripps Institution of Oceanography at La Jolla, California, searched a sample of the meteorite for amino acids, the building blocks of the proteins and enzymes vital to life. They found three amino acids in a form very similar to that found in the Antarctic ice. The implication is that they came from meltwater from the ice that surrounded the meteorite.

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Lonely career



# 'Lonely fogey's' legal career comes to end

Philip Delves Broughton on the solicitor better known as a defendant

ANGUS DIGGLE, the solicitor jailed in 1993 for trying to rape a woman while wearing nothing but frilly Highland cuffs and a luminous green condom, was finally struck off the solicitors' roll yesterday after a conviction for being drunk and disorderly in a public place. It brings to an end one of the legal world's more ignominious careers.

Mr Diggle, 41, was not present at yesterday's solicitors' disciplinary tribunal in London. He claimed he could not afford the train fare from Bolton where he lives, jobless, with his mother, Mabel.

The tribunal was told that, on a Sunday afternoon in November 1995, he emerged, drunk, on to Glebe Street in Bolton where he encountered two police officers. They were talking to two suspected prostitutes and a man. Mr Diggle asked the officers what they were doing. None of your business, he was told. Mr Diggle, according to the police report, said it most certainly was his business and suggested that the officers ought to know who he was. He then made some sharp criticisms of the criminal justice system.

Smelling drink on his breath, one of the officers took hold of Mr Diggle and told him to come down to the station. Mr Diggle struggled, shouting: "Do you know who I am, you cannot do this, you have no lawful authority." He was handcuffed and taken to the station where, the tribunal heard, his behaviour was criticised by police.

Despite denying the drunk and disorderly charge, Mr Diggle was convicted by Bolton Magistrates' Court in April 1996 and fined £75 plus £125 costs. The conviction was the latest of a series that forced the tribunal to decide that Mr Diggle had brought his profession "into grave disrepute" and to ban him from practising law again.

The offences included as well as the previous attempted rape conviction, a conviction and fine of £100 for failing to observe certain conditions of the licence under which he was released early from prison. The tribunal was also told of an incident in 1993 when he harassed a 20-year-old woman student on a train, "aggressively quoting Latin and Shakespeare at her" and asking her if she wanted to be mother of a master race.

Mr Diggle's climb to an unfortunate national prominence began in September 1993 when a young woman solicitor accused him of trying to rape her after a Highland ball at the Grosvenor House Hotel in Mayfair.

The woman, who had escorted Mr Diggle to the ball and invited him to spend the night with her in her friend's flat, said she woke up in the middle of the night to find Mr Diggle on top of her wearing only Highland cuffs, spectacles and a luminous green condom. Mr Diggle did not help his own case by saying the woman had led him on by undressing in front of him and allegedly telling the police officer interrogating him: "I have spent £200 on her. Why can't I do what I did to her?"

When confronted by the girl's friends the morning after the incident, he told them they were being boring and added: "You obviously did not go to public school."

Mr Diggle went to the independent Bolton School before studying law at Bristol University, where he was known for his interest in wine, stained glass and calligraphy. "A lonely fogey from another era" was how he was described at the attempted rape trial. The jury rejected his denials and sentenced him to three years' imprisonment, reduced to two on appeal.

After an early release for good behaviour, Mr Diggle was suspended in January 1995 from practising law for a year. He celebrated by dining alone in Claridges. The suspension was immaterial because Mr Diggle had not renewed his certificate to practise since 1990. His only job since then had been a brief tenure with the North West Regional Health Authority, which sacked him after the incident on the train.

Jeffrey Williams, from the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, said at the hearing: "The publicity that these convictions attract diminish the reputation of the solicitors' profession in the eyes of the public."

Mr Diggle was also ordered to pay the £1,292.50 cost of the hearing.

**The publicity that these convictions attract diminish the reputation of solicitors in the eyes of the public**



Angus Diggle, who is unemployed and living with his mother in Bolton

## Bingo hall reaches deal with Muslims

By Peter Foster

THE owners of a Mecca bingo hall and Muslim community leaders who said the name gave offence yesterday reached a compromise.

The Rank Group has taken down the gaudy electric signs outside its outlet in Luton, Bedfordshire, after two hour-long meetings. The company said new signs would be put up.

The 20,000-strong Muslim community had complained that the use of the name of their holy city in connection with alcohol and gambling was profane. The bingo hall, in the largely Muslim area of south Luton, was the target of an arson attack last month in which young Muslims are thought to have petrol-bombed the signs. On Christmas Day 15 windows were smashed by vandals.

Akbar Khan, secretary of the Islamic Society in Luton, who led the campaign against Rank, said he was happy with the compromise. No large Mecca signs would be going back up, he said.

## RAC calls for drugs tests for drivers

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Editor

POLICE should be issued with a breathalyser-style device to test up to three million cannabis users who could be as great a danger behind the wheel as drink-drivers, the RAC said yesterday.

The motoring organisation warned campaigners wanting to legalise cannabis that police had no way of testing for the drug, although it impaired judgment and increased chances of an accident. The development of a roadside test as effective as the breathalyser was a priority.

Cannabis is regularly smoked by 10 per cent of the 30 million driving population, the RAC said, and the numbers could grow if the drug was legalised. Cannabis slows reaction times and reduces concentration in much the same way as alcohol.

Edmund King, the RAC's head of campaigns, said: "Drug-driving is a largely unknown danger. There could be thousands of people who would never dream of drinking and driving but who are still putting themselves and others at risk by using cannabis or other drugs."

A European Union report last year estimated that at least 4,500 deaths and 135,000 serious injuries each year could be caused by motorists under the influence of drugs.

Senior police officers are already convinced that motorists under the influence of drugs are as much a danger as drink-drivers. Ecstasy, but also remedies for colds and flu, depression and painkillers could affect drivers' judgment.

## Prisoners agree to tolerate sex offenders

By a Correspondent

PRISONERS who have promised not to attack sex offenders are to be rewarded with extra privileges.

Under the scheme, inmates at Albany prison on the Isle of Wight sign a contract agreeing not to commit "antisocial behaviour" against those held for sex offences. The agreement has been entered into by every inmate in the prison, allowing staff to abolish its segregation wings.

Sex offenders, who were kept in these wings for their own safety, can now mingle with the other prisoners. This has released prison officers, who were used to "keep apart the two warring factions", to undertake other duties. The system of contracts was introduced by Stephen Moore, the governor, before Christmas with the aim of bringing about an integrated regime at the prison.

Albany is a Category B jail and holds 440 prisoners, 200 of whom are sex offenders. When the plans for the scheme were discussed with the other 240 convicts, 20 of them objected and were promptly moved to other prisons. Those remaining agreed to sign the good behaviour bond in return for rewards such as visits, and leisure and association periods.

Mr Moore said: "If they play the game they will get the goodies. They don't need to like or sympathise with people they regard as distasteful, but they should leave them alone." He said all of Albany's prisoners are living as a fully integrated unit, exercising, eating and working together.

## Jet lag cure may lie behind knee

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

JET-LAGGED? Try shining a powerful light at the back of your knee.

It may sound like the whackiest of New Age remedies but it could work. American scientists have found that the back of the knee is sensitive to light.

Scott Campbell and colleagues from Cornell University were able to reset the human clock in 15 healthy volunteers by bright illumination of the back of their knees. Until now it was thought that in humans, only light falling on the eye was capable of resetting the body clock.

In the experiments, a light pad behind the knee was

turned on for three hours at a time while the volunteers were sitting.

The chances are that there is nothing special about the back of the knee but it is sufficiently far from the eyes that it can be illuminated, behind a screen, without the volunteer being aware of it.

The team were able to show that the body-clocks of the volunteers had been shifted by measuring their temperature, which rises and falls over a roughly 24-hour cycle.

Writing in *Science*, the team suggests that the discovery could have practical applications in improving treatment of sleep disorders.

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# Industry will bear the brunt of £1 billion data protection cost

Richard Ford details provisions for public to have a greater say in information on file about them

INDUSTRY and government face a bill of more than £1 billion to implement an EU directive giving the public greater access to personal information stored on computer and in files. The initial cost, largely falling on business, will be followed by a further outlay of £742 million a year.

Under the Data Protection Bill, published yesterday, individuals will be given greater powers to claim compensation for distress or damage caused by the misuse of stored information. However, to avoid it becoming a backdoor privacy law, the rich and powerful will not be able to use it to thwart investigative journalism. Lord Williams of Mostyn, a junior Home Office Minister, admitted that the start-up costs were "very high" but emphasised that the figure may have been overestimated.

The Bill's provisions will affect virtually every organisation holding information about individuals. The implementation costs will, in some cases, include writing to individuals to ask their consent to collect and hold information about them.

The Bill, which replaces the existing 1984 Act, includes a number of exemptions. For example, people will not be allowed to inspect information gathered by journalists that is intended for publication. Other key exemptions include information held for the prevention or detection of crime, the

catching or prosecuting of offenders, and the assessment or collection of taxes and duties. Confidential references, information that could undermine the effectiveness of the armed forces, data relating to judicial appointments and honours, management forecasting, examination results and pupils' exam papers are also exempt.

The move to prevent the Bill being used to hinder media inquiries followed a series of meetings between Lord Williams and Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. Lord Williams told a press conference at the Home Office that ministers had tried to meet the concerns of the media. "The Bill recognises the special importance of freedom of expression and contains exemptions to ensure that journalism and artistic and literary activities are not put at risk by data protection rules," he said.

Under the Bill, to be law by October, the public will have a much greater opportunity to claim compensation for damages or distress caused if information is misused or wrongly gathered. At the moment

compensation can only be claimed for damages caused by an inaccuracy or an unauthorised disclosure.

The public will also have the right to be informed whether personal information on them is being gathered, for what purpose it is held and to whom it is being disclosed. They will also be able to demand in writing that organisations stop gathering information they intend to use for direct marketing. Card index systems, and personnel files that include annual reports, will be brought under the scope of the law.

It is estimated that £836 million of the initial start-up costs and £630 million of the annual recurring costs will fall on business. Of that, £164 million of the non-recurring costs and £122 million of the recurring costs will have to be paid by small firms.

Charities and voluntary organisations face a start-up bill of £120 million and annual costs of £37 million. The Government will have to find an initial £90 million and £46 million annually, while councils

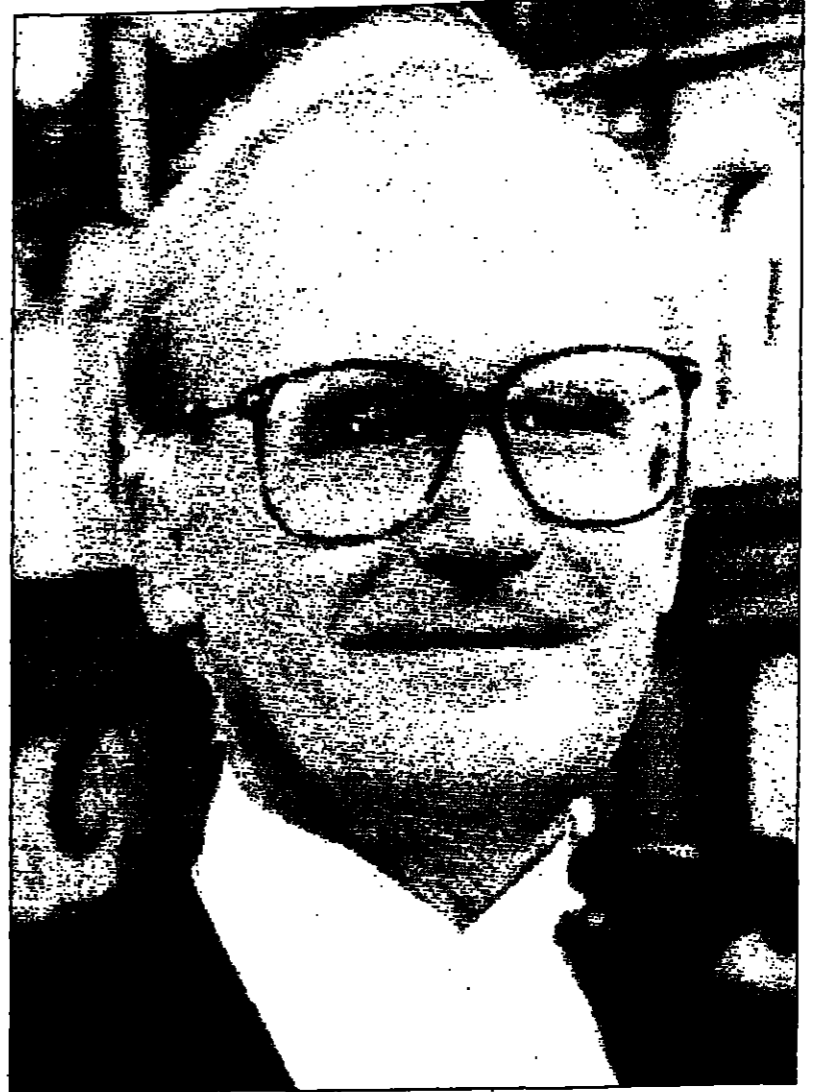
will face £104 million start-up charges plus £46 million a year.

Business leaders voiced concern about the cost of implementing the bill. Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "However laudable the aims of the legislation, extra costs will be piled on to firms." A spokeswoman for the Local Government Management Board, which represents councils in England and Wales, said: "While we support the aims of this Bill, finding the money to implement it will be yet another burden on authorities whose backs are already up against the budgetary wall."

John Redwood, Shadow President of the Board of Trade, said: "This is another example of a directive imposing horrendous costs on European businesses which will help undermine their competitive position in world markets."

Elizabeth France, of the Data Protection Registrar, said: "This measure is timely as there is increasing capacity to hold and manipulate computerised information. In both the public and private sectors there is great impetus to deliver services electronically and to use computerised personal information to inform decisions affecting individuals."

‘The Bill recognises the special importance of freedom of expression’



Lord Williams said the estimated costs may be on the high side

Leading article, page 21

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## Black Marine 'was forced to carry 4ft spear'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BLACK Royal Marine commando was posted to Zulu Company as a joke and was forced to carry a 4ft spear on parade, the High Court was told yesterday.

Mark Parchment, 28, who has an English mother and a Jamaican father, said he had been warned by a Royal Marine recruiting officer before he joined that his colour "would cause me problems". What he was not prepared for, he said in court yesterday, was the "systematic and continued racial abuse" that he suffered when he joined Zulu Company of 45 Commando in Arbroath, Tayside.

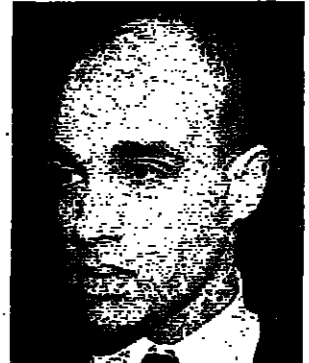
Mr Parchment, who arrived in court with his girlfriend Vanessa Taub, 29, was appearing before Mr Justice Griffith Williams, QC, in the first stage of legal action against the Secretary of State for Defence for allegedly failing to fulfil his duty of care.

Yesterday's arguments dealt with whether Mr Parchment's claim should fail because the 1980 Limitation Act imposed a three-year time limit for compensation claims. John Mackenzie, for Mr Parchment, said that the Marine did not make a for-

mal complaint until May 1994, having gone absent without leave in 1989 after suffering mental and physical abuse. However he had only realised he was suffering from "significant personal injury" arising from the racial abuse when he was diagnosed in 1996 with a psychiatric condition.

Mr Parchment joined the Marines in 1987 and was discharged in June 1994. Mr Mackenzie said that, as "an unpleasant joke", he had been assigned to Zulu Company, which had the "wildest" reputation.

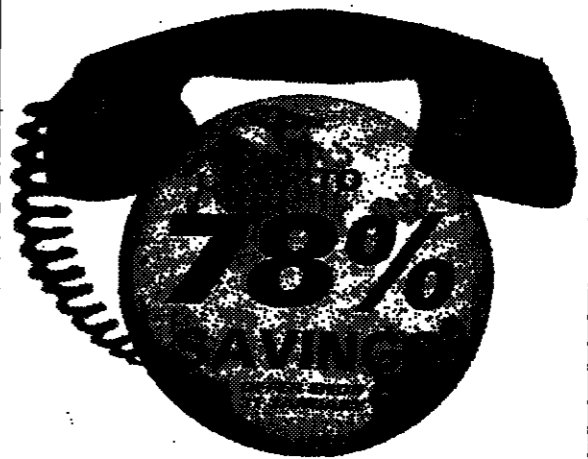
The hearing continues.



Parchment leaving court

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# Diana trustees defend law firm in fees furore

'Fat-car' billing denied, report Frances Gibb and Emma Wilkins

**TRUSTEES** of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund said yesterday that they were "very satisfied" with the £500,000 legal bill for 11 weeks' work for the fund. Rejecting criticism of the charges run up by a team of 20 lawyers from Mishcon de Reya, the trustees insisted the fees were "reasonable and appropriate" and denied reports that they were considering changing companies. A statement noted that Mishcon de Reya's charges had been "appropriately discounted".

Mishcon launched its own defence with a statement saying the firm was "satisfied our fees are charged in a proper way". The firm was "discounting its usual fees by 20 per cent, which is equivalent to its normal profit margin" as "a contribution to the extraordinary nature of the memorial fund and the public's emotional commitment to it".

Vivienne Parry, a trustee, said: "The financial benefits from the commercial projects being established by Mishcon

de Reya will massively outweigh the cost of setting them up." She denied that donations from members of the public were being used to line the pockets of "fat-car lawyers".

"This is an absolute storm in a tea-cup," she said. "Of course we will keep an eye on the fees, but we can't do something as big and complex as the memorial fund without the best legal advice." Ms Parry, a former presenter of *Tomorrow's World* and charity fundraiser, said: "I would be upset if I thought the money was going on excessive lawyers' fees. I am not going to let people's money be spent inappropriately, but neither am I going to let the fund suffer for lack of proper legal advice."

Only about £50,000 of the firm's bills related to work setting up the fund. The rest arose from setting up commercial operations, which would go on to generate money for

the fund. Ms Parry said. Suggestions that the trustees were considering sacking Mishcon de Reya were "absolutely wrong", she added. John Jackson, the non-solicitor chairman of Mishcon, said: "We regret that this leaked document has been sensationalised and we regret any distress this may have caused our client and the public at large. We are proud to be working for the memorial fund. All our bills are approved by our client and the trustees of the fund have expressed their satisfaction with our services."

The statement pointed out that Anthony Julius, who was the Princess's lawyer and is engaged on legal work for the fund, was "neither involved in setting the fees nor approving them".

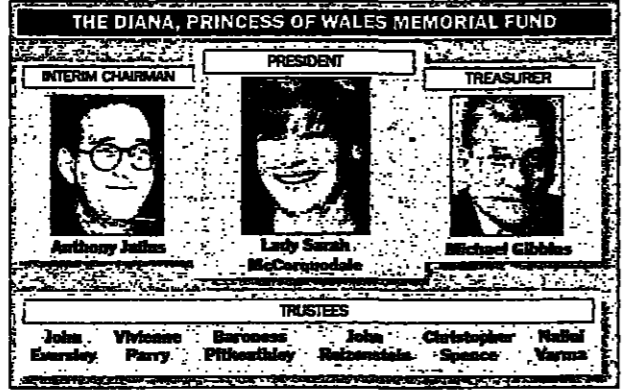
The fund was audited by Coopers & Lybrand and the legal fees would come under scrutiny with other costs incurred by the fund, it said. The legal team's hourly rates would have ranged from £75

for the most junior member to £300 for a partner. Taking an average of £100 per lawyer would mean an hourly charge to the fund of £2,000 for the team. Five hours' work a day for 11 weeks would total £550,000. The team, including five partners, has had to establish the legal status of the fund as a charity, set up its administration and advise the trustees on its structure. It has had to establish the legal basis for commercial and fund-raising activities — some 1,500 projects are currently being looked at.

The lawyers have had to negotiate for the fund to achieve maximum returns, establish proper licences and help to establish intellectual property rights over the late Princess's name and image. Ms Parry said: "If you are doing something like this, you have to do it properly. You can't expect to pop into a local high street solicitors and ask them to do international copyright law."



Anthony Julius, the Princess's lawyer, was not involved in setting the fees, Mishcon de Reya said yesterday



## 'Fancy-pants' billing raises legal eyebrows

By Our Legal Correspondent

**WHEN** Diana, Princess of Wales, died, lawyers were fond of jealously pointing out that Anthony Julius must be in mourning — for the loss of his best client.

But the work in connection with her estate and the £35 million memorial fund continued to guarantee a steady income for his firm, Mishcon de Reya.

The question in legal circles yesterday, however, was whether Mishcon had overstepped the mark. One senior City lawyer said: "I believe they are a bit fancy-pants with their approach to costs. They are not subject to the same pressures on costs as many other City law firms whose corporate clients demand special rates for bulk work. For a special job like this, they could charge top rates."

Another senior lawyer said: "Their fees are a bit on the high side, but nothing out of the ordinary."

One lawyer said: "Law firms work on the basis that a solicitor can charge for four to five hours a day, on average across the year. Mishcon may have had teams of people working 12 hours a day and decided to charge for ten hours, which is actually twice

what law firms normally charge."

Eyebrows were raised at the cost of a marketing assistant, Kate Day, a young solicitor working for Mishcon who handled the press for four weeks. One report indicates that the fund was billed £20,000 for her work.

Mishcon's work included ensuring that the memorial fund receives royalties from T-shirts, mugs and other gifts bearing the Princess's name or image. It has also applied to establish Diana's name and image as an official trademark: is seeking 30 per cent royalties from all items bearing her likeness and acting to stop the sale of bogus goods.

Other activities include: dealing with commercial proposals to bring money into the fund, including the Diana tribute album and *Candle in the Wind 97* single; attempting to block an unofficial film telling the story of Diana's relationship with Dodi Fayed; and registering a Diana logo.

David McIntosh, senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, one of the City law firms which has pioneered good charging practice, said: "There is bound to be outrage about these figures. But until one knows exactly how many people were involved and how many hours of work were put in, you can't say that. It may not be unreasonable at all."

He said that it would be advisable if Mr Julius were to place himself beyond criticism over costs. "He should say why his firm is charging what it is — and for what."

The money is certainly welcome at Mishcon. Within the legal profession it is known to have gone through a recent rough patch and despite healthy fees has lost 41 lawyers since 1992.



Day, four weeks' work is said to have cost £20,000

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# Blair goes back to Beveridge in welfare campaign

FIFTY years after the establishment of cradle-to-grave social security in 1948, the Government went back to Beveridge yesterday to explain its reasons for seeking root-and-branch reform of the system he inspired.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, published a synopsis of the Government's case for welfare reform, with seven "focus files" highlighting faults in today's system and the need for urgent change.

The pamphlets were launched with Tony Blair's first "welfare roadshow" to convince the public of the need for reform. They heavily emphasise the legacy of William Beveridge, the Liberal politician whose 1942 report into social insurance laid the foundations of the welfare state.

"Beveridge's principles will remain central," the *Case for Welfare Reform* states. "The Society has a responsibility to help people in genuine need, who are unable to look after themselves; 2. Individuals have a responsibility to help provide for themselves when they can do so; 3. Work is the best route out of poverty for people who are able to work. The present system falls a long way short of these principles."

Quoting Beveridge, the focus file on *The Evolution of*

**Labour affirms its faith in the founding principles, writes Mark Henderson**

system... It will be based on a fairer balance between rights and responsibilities: we will guarantee that people who can, should help to provide for themselves."

The system is attacked for "absorbing ever-increasing sums of public money, whilst poverty and social exclusion have soared". An extra £43 billion was spent on social security in real terms between 1979 and 1996, while the numbers living on less than half the average income rose from one in ten to one in five. In 1949, the first full year of the welfare state, 13½p of each pound spent by the Government went on social security. That figure had risen to 18p by 1971 and 30p today.

The cost of the welfare state in 1949 — £12 billion at today's prices — has increased nearly eightfold to almost £100 billion, more than the health, education and law and order budgets put together. Yet between 1979 and today, the share paid out to the poorest fifth of households has fallen from 42 per cent to 30 per cent today. The share going to the elderly has fallen from 54 per cent to 44 per cent, and a million pensioners do not collect the income support to which they are entitled.

The documents highlight the "benefit trap", under which an estimated 360,000 people face effective marginal



William Beveridge envisaged a system that would not stifle the incentive to work

tax rates of 80 per cent or more if they return to work, and the Byzantine rules regarding in-work benefits that discourage many unemployed people from trying to find a job. Disabled people, too, are discouraged from seeking jobs because many disability benefits, notably incapacity benefit, penalise work.

Benefit fraud, as confirmed by a report published yesterday by the National Audit Office, is endemic, and the estimated £4 billion a year lost to fraud could pay for 100 new large hospitals.

The seven focus files examine present practice in the

welfare state, its history and five particular kinds of benefit — for the unemployed, for the sick and disabled, for pensioners, for families with children and to help with housing costs.

The alarming facts highlighted by the focus files include:

- Only New Zealand among western nations has a higher percentage of families headed by an unemployed single parent.
- Spending on disability benefits has grown from less than £8 billion in 1981 to £24 billion today.
- Spending on housing benefit has risen by an average 11

per cent a year since deregulation of private rents in 1989.

- The percentage of children living in workless households rose from 7 per cent in 1979 to 21 per cent in 1994-95. The proportion of children in households with less than half the average income rose from 10 per cent in 1979 to 32 per cent in 1994-95.

*Copies of the Case for Welfare Reform and the seven focus files are available free from the Department of Social Security by calling 0181 867 3201.*

Leading article and Letters, page 21

## Field points to end of 'ration book' approach

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANK FIELD called yesterday for a greater partnership between the private and public sector over welfare provision, saying that a Big Bang approach to welfare reform was no longer tenable.

The Minister for Welfare Reform, appointed by Tony Blair to draw up wide-ranging changes to the benefits system, said that Government strategy was to continue the principal aim of reform designed by Lloyd George and Beveridge to ensure that more people had welfare cover. But the definition of welfare would have to change, as well as the means by which it was delivered.

Delivering the Keith Joseph Memorial Lecture in London, he said: "The first two great welfare reform drives this century were about extending government-provided coverage. As I have said, our objectives are about extending coverage — but the approach will not be simply to extend government-provided coverage."

"We want to build partnerships between the public and private sectors, with our plans for stakeholder pensions in the vanguard of this movement."

The ration-book approach to welfare coverage is not seen by the Government or, more importantly, by a growing proportion of the country as either a viable or desirable approach.

Mr Field, who drew up a

blueprint for reform before he was appointed to the Social Security Department, appeared to back down from imposing an immediate reorganisation of welfare provision.

The minister, who has backed ideas for compulsory pensions and compulsory insurance for long-term care, made clear that any proposals would have to be widely consulted on and would take several Parliaments to carry through.

"I do not think that a Big Bang approach is the right one for welfare reformers today. A search for a single compelling solution to the problems of welfare dependency is certain to be a fruitless one. There is no simple panacea, no philosopher's stone there to be found if only we search long enough."



Field says there is no simple panacea

## The argument is strong, but the solution unclear

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

TONY BLAIR is right to take personal charge of the welfare debate — by chairing the new Cabinet committee and leading a national tour to sell reform to the public, and to the Labour Party. The Commons revolt over lone parent benefits and the subsequent confusion had threatened to undermine the review. Mr Blair's analysis in his Dudley speech last night of what is wrong now was impeccable: it is not supporting many in genuine need, is not helping all those into work who can work and is not encouraging personal responsibility. He made a strong case for change, but in what direction? The guarantees he offered are necessary politically, to reassure pensioners and after the lone parents row, but they do not help to define what the main options for reform will be.

Mr Blair said he wanted to "do for the welfare state what I did for Clause Four". It is an intriguing parallel, but a misleading one. The rewriting of Clause Four was a dramatic political initiative — which did more to establish his leadership than any other event. But for all his boldness, it was a relatively straightforward exercise. All the defenders of the old Clause Four had to lose was their prejudices. Their incomes were not affected.

By contrast, welfare reform is not straightforward. There is no simple question to be voted for or against, and a vast array of benefits may be

regarded as impossible to sell. In the last Parliament, Peter Lilley was a successful gradualist in reshaping, and slowing the growth of, the social security budget.

Last night Mr Field persuasively argued against a Big Bang because the existing structure of welfare benefits is so complicated — with people having different needs — that "a search for a single, compelling solution to the problems of welfare dependency is certain to be a fruitless one". But a gradualist approach will only work if the general direction is clear. At present, it is not. There are several, competing approaches. Gordon Brown has already put one in place with his Welfare to Work proposals to aid those out of work or in low-paid jobs. Harriet Harman has talked about an "affluence test" in deciding benefits. This is not just a voter-friendly way of saying means test. It would mainly apply to those well above the income scale rather than those in the overlap between benefits and work.

Mr Field has long advocated extending the insurance principle. The Government will not be able to take the initiative in the welfare debate until it moves beyond Mr Blair's vague, and generally agreed, goals and resolves these key strategic questions — before introducing detailed changes gradually.

PETER RIDDELL

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Rebuked adds to Mil

# Rebuke by US adds to woes of Milosevic

SERBIA faced crisis on three fronts yesterday as Slobodan Milosevic, the dictatorial Yugoslav president, came under personal attack from Robert Gelbard, the US envoy to the Balkans.

To the west, Serbia was braced for a refugee influx as the United Nations formally pulled out of Croatia's Eastern Slavonia region, where for the past two years the UN's transitional administration has protected the last significant Serb minority on Croatian soil.

To the southwest, Milo Djukanovic, a liberal reformist backed by Washington, was sworn in as the President of Montenegro, Serbia's sister state in what remains of Yugoslavia. His drive to privatise industry and free the economy of Belgrade's stultifying yoke is naturally building a groundswell of local sentiment in favour of complete independence.

More bad tidings came from the south, where the Macedonian media reported that ethnic Albanians claimed responsibility for bomb attacks, including one on Macedonia's only significant Serb population. They quoted Swiss-based commanders of the shadowy Kosovo Liberation Army, a force which now appears big and organised enough to cause debilitating civil conflict.

On top of all this, Mr Milosevic's regime received a

### Tom Walker on the threat from refugees, ethnic unrest and secessionists

stinging rebuke from Mr Gelbard, who blamed him and his Socialist protégé, Momir Bulatovic, for fomenting riots in Montenegro. Forty-four injured policemen were recovering yesterday in Podgorica, the capital, after hired Socialist mobs stormed the government offices of Mr Djukanovic. Washington and international monitors insist he is the legitimately elected successor to Mr Bulatovic.

The American Government is deeply concerned and the international community deeply offended by the absolutely outrageous behaviour by outgoing President Bulatovic in inciting these riots," Mr Gelbard said in Belgrade.

these demonstrations and for not restraining his colleague". The Eastern Slavonia question is at least out of Mr Milosevic's hands, the fate of Serbs there determined by how much pressure Washington maintains on Zagreb to respect human rights. But for Mr Milosevic, champion of greater Serbia, whose forces in 1991 flattened the Slavonian port of Vukovar, "cleansing" the area of Croats, yesterday's handover and the lowering of the Serb flag on the Danube was a bitter pill.

In Montenegro, there was an ominous calm. While Mr Djukanovic was sworn into office in the ancient royal capital of Cetinje, Mr Bulatovic's followers vowed to ignore his rule and found even more fantastic excuses for the riots of Wednesday night, which they blamed on the police.

Belgrade, state radio claimed that Yugoslav fuzun police units had somehow been involved; the evidence coming from a Bulatovic aide who claimed he heard an Italian special forces officer saying *pronto*.

With a near-bankrupt economy, Mr Milosevic has little chance of wheeling his decrepit army into effective action, either in quelling the restive Albanians or forcing Montenegrins to abandon their evolving plans for secession.



Police stop gay activists displaying a banner before the Pope in Rome yesterday as they protest against the "intolerance" of homosexuality

## Scuffles erupt as Rome gays picket the Pope

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

GAY demonstrators yesterday staged a protest against "Roman Catholic persecution of homosexuals" and picketed the Pope as he made the first visit by a pontiff to Rome's city hall for 32 years.

There were scuffles as demonstrators shouted "shame, shame" when the Pope appeared on the balcony of the Renaissance civic building at the Campidoglio. Incensed spectators shouted back "cretins" as the demonstrators — one wearing a fur coat, high heels and bright red lipstick — were hustled away by police.

The Pope, 77, who appeared not to notice the protest just below him, said Rome should be a "lighthouse of liberty and justice" for the millennium. Flanked by Francesco Rutelli, the Mayor of Rome, and Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the Vicar of Rome, the Pope — who next week travels to Cuba — moved slowly but unaided and spoke in a slurred but strong voice despite his physical decline, attributed to Parkinson's disease.

He referred to the "negative" aspects of modern-day "cosmopolitan Rome" and noted that a large proportion of its population consisted of "non-believers". He said his visit showed that "both lay and Christian" Rome, which he referred to

repeatedly as "my city", were united in preparing for the year 2000, which had a "wholly Christian meaning". Franco Grillini, head of Arcigay, the homosexual organisation, said the Pope had "no moral authority for us". He said activists from around the world were preparing for a "Year 2000 Gay March" in Rome to focus attention on the fact that "Italy's Catholic culture forces gays to hide away or commit suicide".

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Russian jet intercepts Britons

MOSCOW: A light plane piloted by two Britons was forced to land in Kaliningrad by a Russian fighter jet. The plane had crossed into Russian airspace and was heading for Poland when intercepted.

Tass said the two Britons, aged 40 and 45, explained that they had been flying from Estonia to England via Latvia and Lithuania but a problem with their light computer made it difficult to follow their route. Kaliningrad is a military area. (Reuters)

## Staff bypass

Washington: A ring which smuggled in more than 500 nurses from the Philippines and South Korea — to cash in on the shortage of trained staff — has been broken by government agents.

## Kenya epidemic

Nairobi: Doctors and politicians have demanded emergency action to contain Rift Valley fever in flood-swept northeastern Kenya and southern Somalia, where 5,000 people have died. (AFP)

## Defence first

Monrovia: Liberia plans to spend almost 82 per cent of its 1998 budget on defence. Other items include 7.6 per cent on education, 6.4 per cent on health and 4.2 per cent on agriculture. (AFP)

## Tajik war fears

Moscow: Fears that Tajikistan's civil war may reignite grew as Muslim opposition representatives walked out of a national reconciliation commission set up to prepare for elections. (AP)

## Canada recovers after century's worst ice storm

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

MONTREAL reopened for business yesterday, ten days after the worst ice storm of the century. Schools in Ottawa were open and school buses running again as city crews made the streets passable for traffic.

However, in rural areas of Quebec, particularly a large area south of Montreal known as the Triangle of Darkness, more than 700,000 people were still without electricity and heat. Entire towns were deserted and guarded by police and some of the 12,400 Canadian soldiers that had

watched the line and prayed through the night that it would not come crashing down as well.

Mr Bouchard said that if the last line had gone, the water-works, the subway and entire life of the city would have come to a standstill and hospitals, jails and three million people would have been evacuated during the night in the freezing cold.

Yesterday engineers managed to reach some parts of Quebec near the US border that have been without power. Electricity from Quebec is being sent to Boston, rerouted to Vermont, across to New York State and back into Quebec, where cross-border lines are still standing.

Repair crews had connected another 100,000 people and André Caille, president of Hydro Quebec, said that by January 26 everyone in Quebec would be reconnected. "Until then, we will have to continue doing the best we can," he said.

my jigsaw puzzle," one elderly man told a radio interviewer afterwards.

Lucien Bouchard, the Prime Minister of Quebec, has been holding daily emergency cabinet meetings in Montreal. He said in an interview that last Saturday night, at the height of the storm, Montreal narrowly escaped a total blackout. The city and its three million inhabitants were down to their last 735kV power line. If that line had gone it would have provoked a domino effect, with the entire system collapsing.

Hydro Quebec officials

## Belgian murder hunt thwarted

Brussels: Belgian investigations into the case of Andras Pandi, the Hungarian-born Protestant priest accused of murdering five members of his family, have been thwarted by the discovery that bones found at one of his houses do not come from any of them.

Mr Pandi, a naturalised Belgian, was arrested last October and charged with murdering his two former wives and three of their

children, who all disappeared in the 1980s. He denies the charges, although his daughter Agnes, also charged with murder or assisting in murder, has given details of how the alleged crimes were committed.

Joë Colpin, spokesman for the Brussels public prosecutor, said DNA tests on remains found in the freezer at one of Mr Pandi's homes showed that they had come

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# Public mood swings to Clinton as Jones gets her day in court

The most gripping legal cases have the quality of a John Grisham thriller — the potential to backfire suddenly on the protagonist who seemed so assured of winning. That is the growing risk that Paula Jones is running by insisting on her day in court.



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX

President Clinton will tomorrow give his first sworn testimony in denying Ms Jones's allegations that he asked her to perform oral sex in a hotel suite in Little Rock in 1991 when he was Governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee. Her lawyers will interrogate him under oath from his lawyers' offices, rather than the White House.

the venue was changed when it emerged that she is likely to attend to prevent pictures of her on presidential soil. Mr

Clinton this week told *US News and World Report* it was "probably" inevitable that the trial, scheduled to start on May 27, would go ahead. "I just try to put it over in a little box and go on and do my work," he said. He has denied her claims, and says he cannot remember if he ever met her.

Although there is recurrent talk of settlements — the figures range from \$750,000 (£460,000) to \$2 million — this is shadow boxing while Ms Jones insists on an apology which the President will never give. But Mr Clinton can afford to feel more optimistic in private than that resigned tone implies. He retires in

2000 and the room for political damage is negligible even the potential for further personal embarrassment is slight.

As far as anatomical revelations go, the comic value of Ms Jones's claim that his genitals have "distinguishing characteristics" is dissipating. Late-night comedians have tired of the rumours that the President's penis has a kink in it, after his doctors' vigorous denials.

As for the less explicit picture Ms Jones wants to paint — of Mr Clinton as a compulsive womaniser — it is history. It is true that her lawyers will attempt to delve into the details of the Pres-

ident's sexual past. But in the confessional tradition of American politics, voters pronounced forgiveness on him at the last election.

Sceptics believe that the recent "sneaked" pictures of him dancing on the beach with Hillary were manufactured by the spinmeisters: even if so, the photographs have successfully restored the romance to the public image of the First Couple. Ms Jones will also be vulnerable to the perception that she has taken the President away from the business of leading the free world: the trial is set to coincide with important debates on Nato expansion and US troops in Bosnia. It does

not help Ms Jones that she let years go by before filing suit, too long to bring a charge of sexual harassment. She has been forced instead to claim that Mr Clinton infringed her civil rights, a legal device which, in general, many Republicans dislike.

Above all, the trial itself may cast a harsh spotlight on Ms Jones herself. If she escapes questioning about her own sexual history in the case against Mr Clinton, she may not do so in separate suits about state troopers' evidence. Even those supportive of her case, nonetheless, ask whether the alleged offence warrants sacrific-

ing so much privacy and peace of mind.

It remains entirely credible that she suffered some kind of unwanted sexual advance. She is not the implausible, unsympathetic plaintiff that some made her out to be — in the famous phrase, a woman "with big hair out of the trailer parks". She has a striking presence: with her pale face, wavy locks and prominent mouth, she has a passing resemblance to Jane Morris, wife of William, whose pre-Raphaelite beauty was celebrated in a recent Tate Gallery exhibition.

But Ms Jones now seems captured by a delusion of how this drama will play out. She

needs the unanimous verdict of a 12-person jury to win, and even if she were awarded damages, it is far from clear that jurors would or could direct the President to apologise.

Yet Ms Jones appears to be gripped by the vision of what is a political near-impossibility: that the President of the United States will apologise to her in six months' time in front of the world's television cameras. Like the late Diana, Princess of Wales, she may find that publicity, particularly of the self-inflicted variety, is a double-edged sword.

Ms Jones will have her day in court, it now seems, but she may regret it.

## Teenage lure by tobacco company

By BRONWEN MADDOX

AMERICA'S second-largest cigarette manufacturer, RJR Reynolds, targeted smokers as young as 13 in an effort to cling to its shrinking market share, secret company papers have disclosed. The 81 documents, spanning 1973 to 1990, appear to contradict the company's repeated public statements that it had not aimed its marketing at young people.

Allegations that tobacco companies have systematically tried to hook young smokers are one of the most controversial strands in lawsuits against the industry. Last year leading tobacco companies agreed to pay \$36.5 billion to state governments in return for immunity from lawsuits.

Release of the documents, obtained by members of Congress from law firms suing the industry, may strengthen the hand of those who argue that Congress should not write the settlement into law without toughening the penalties. One RJR document, from a board of directors' meeting on September 30, 1974, says young people "represent tomorrow's cigarette business". A marketing vice-president said: "As this 14-24 age group matures, they will account for a key share of the total cigarette volume over the next 25 years."

The presentation noted that Philip Morris's Marlboro brand was having markedly more success in winning young people. Recent research shows that up to 89 per cent of smokers start smoking by age 18, and that smokers are extremely loyal to their brands.

Last year RJR voluntarily agreed to end its eight-year Joe Camel cartoon advertising campaign after federal officials said it appealed to children.

## Cook says US policy on Iran is futile

By BRONWEN MADDOX

ROBIN COOK delivered a stern lecture to the United States yesterday, saying that its policy of isolating Iran was futile, even counter-productive, and that its sanctions laws risked undermining the transatlantic alliance.

The Foreign Secretary, on a one-day visit to Washington marking the start of the British presidency of the European Union, said: "Iran is one issue where the United States and the EU find it hard to see eye to eye. We share many common aims, but have failed to agree on a common prescription."

The target of Mr Cook's attack was America's Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, which aims to penalise any company worldwide that trades with those countries. The act "has an extra-territorial impact on legitimate business which is unacceptable", he said. "We and our EU partners cannot forge a new partnership with the US on Iran while we are looking down the barrel of the Sanctions Act gun."

In front of a European Institute audience, he argued that America's current policy of isolating Iran was not the right response. It "won't help the advocates of change in Iran or advance our concerns about human rights", he said. Nor will economic sanctions "have any serious effects on Iran's attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction".

Mr Cook, adding that Europeans were "not naive about the dangers posed by Iran", called for an expansion of the inspection powers of the Inter-

national Atomic Energy Authority and for more intrusive inspections under the Biological Weapons Convention.

Mr Cook's tough language came in a speech that otherwise emphasised the strength of the transatlantic partnership. Britain under the Labour Government was playing a strong role in Europe that allowed it to be a more effective partner for the US, he said. He credited the transatlantic partnership with success in Bosnia — "together, we stopped a war" — and emphasised that "Britain stands four-square" with the US in insisting that Iraq comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

In a direct echo of the Clinton Administration's view, Mr Cook said that the enlargement of Nato and the EU formed a double guarantee that Europe would remain at peace.

Addressing US concerns over Turkey, he said that ensuring Turkey finds the right place in the process of EU enlargement was a priority. But he said firmly that its EU candidacy would be judged by the same criteria as that of any other country: development of a market economy, democratic government and human rights.

Mr Cook, envisaging "a single market that stretches from Belfast to Budapest", said: "We have got rid of the Iron Curtain. We must make sure that it is not replaced by a Velvet Curtain, dividing the prosperous nations inside the EU from the rest."



The spaceman: John Glenn in 1962 when he orbited Earth three times and used manual controls to pilot his stricken capsule out of danger

## Glenn, 76, lobbies for space trip

## High-flier who never went into eclipse

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

SENATOR John Glenn, who in 1962 became the first American to orbit the Earth, is expected to become the first pensioner in space. Nasa, the space agency, is close to offering the 76-year-old one last mission, this time aboard the space shuttle for experiments in weightlessness to study how the body ages.

"We have not made a firm decision yet," said Michael Braukus of Nasa. "We are reviewing all factors to assess whether the mission is viable."

There are no age restrictions for astronauts and Daniel Goldin, the Nasa administrator, is said to favour the idea of giving the man first known for having the "right stuff" a swansong in space. President Clinton, indebted to Mr Glenn both for his staunch campaigning during the last election and his calm presence at congressional hearings into irregular fundraising, is said to back the voyage.

Mr Glenn left the space programme in 1964 and was elected a Democratic senator for Ohio a decade later. He

retires from the Senate at the end of the year and has steadfastly dogged scientists at the National Institutes of Health to urge that Nasa take him on as a payload specialist aboard a shuttle flight. He could be included in the manifest for *Discovery*, scheduled for lift-off from the Kennedy Space Centre in October — 36 years after he orbited Earth in his Mercury capsule, *Friendship VII*.

Mr Glenn never flew in space again after that February when he circled Earth three times. Both President Kennedy and Nasa were afraid that losing such a national icon to a fatal accident could endanger the US programme when the race to the Moon with the Soviet Union was yet to be won.

A Marine fighter pilot in the Second World War, Mr Glenn flew 59 missions in the Pacific. He flew 90 combat missions in Korea and, in his career, won eight Distinguished Flying Crosses. In 1957, when a test pilot, he set a record of three hours and 23 minutes for the



The senator: goes into retirement this year

flight between Los Angeles and New York, and two years later was among six chosen for the Mercury astronaut programme.

Although Alan Shepard and Virgil Grissom became the first Americans in space in 1961 and Yuri Gagarin, who later died in a plane crash, blazed the trail for the Russians, Mr Glenn's trip was fraught with problems. When his automatic re-entry guidance systems failed, he became the first man to pilot his

way through space using manual controls. Failure to control the capsule would have led to a burn-out and instant death.

Mr Glenn has done everything he can to strengthen the case for a second flight. He has passed the annual Nasa physical, speed-walks two miles every day, and lifts weights at his home in Potomac, Maryland. He still pilots a Beechcraft Baron, and set a speed record two years ago.

In the next few months Mr Glenn would be expected to train at the Johnson Space Centre, Houston, to reach a fitness level suitable for flight. He would not be the first politician to fly aboard the shuttle. Senator Jake Garn and Congressman Bill Nelson went up on different flights in 1985. Nasa has refused to fly civilians since the 1986 *Challenger* accident that killed Christa McAuliffe, a teacher, and six astronauts. By the time of the October flight, Mr Glenn would be 77, easily passing the record of Story Musgrave, who flew in 1990 when 61.

Leading article, page 21



Larry King interviewing Karla Tucker at Gatesville jail in Texas

## Murderess looks to God as execution day nears

FROM TUNRU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

KARLA FAYE TUCKER, who will next month become the first woman to be executed in Texas since the Civil War if her sentence is not commuted, has said her life "gets a little more exciting every day".

Interviewed through a prison grille in Gatesville, Texas, by Larry King for the CNN television network, Tucker, now a born-again Christian, spoke of her faith in God, her drug-riddled past and of the "brutal murders" she committed 14 years ago when she and her former boyfriend, Daniel Ryan Garrett,

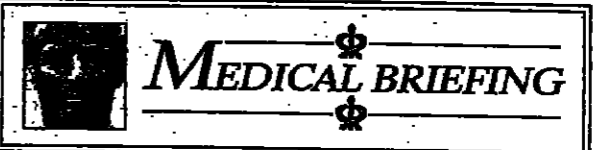
murdered a couple in Houston. Tucker, now married to the church minister who counselled her, said her crime was the product of "a lot of drugs... I was just out of hand". Tucker claims she is now steered by God. Her clemency appeal argues that her Christian faith has changed her so profoundly that she is now "a different person". She told Mr King: "God reached down inside of me and just literally uprooted all that stuff and took it out, and poured himself in". Asked how she felt as February 5, the day of her execution by lethal injection, approached, she said: "It gets a little more exciting every day."

## Journey poses threat to heart

BECAUSE John Glenn is 76, firing him into space would be an interesting scientific experiment, but it is not one that is likely to improve his chances of a healthier and fitter old age, and he may suffer irreversible heart muscle loss.

Muscle loss is a problem for all older people, whatever their lifestyle. The reason for its inevitability is unknown, but it may well be related to the dwindling production of growth hormones.

Whatever the cause, old people's limbs become stick-like, their abdomens and chests expand and, more importantly, there is degener-

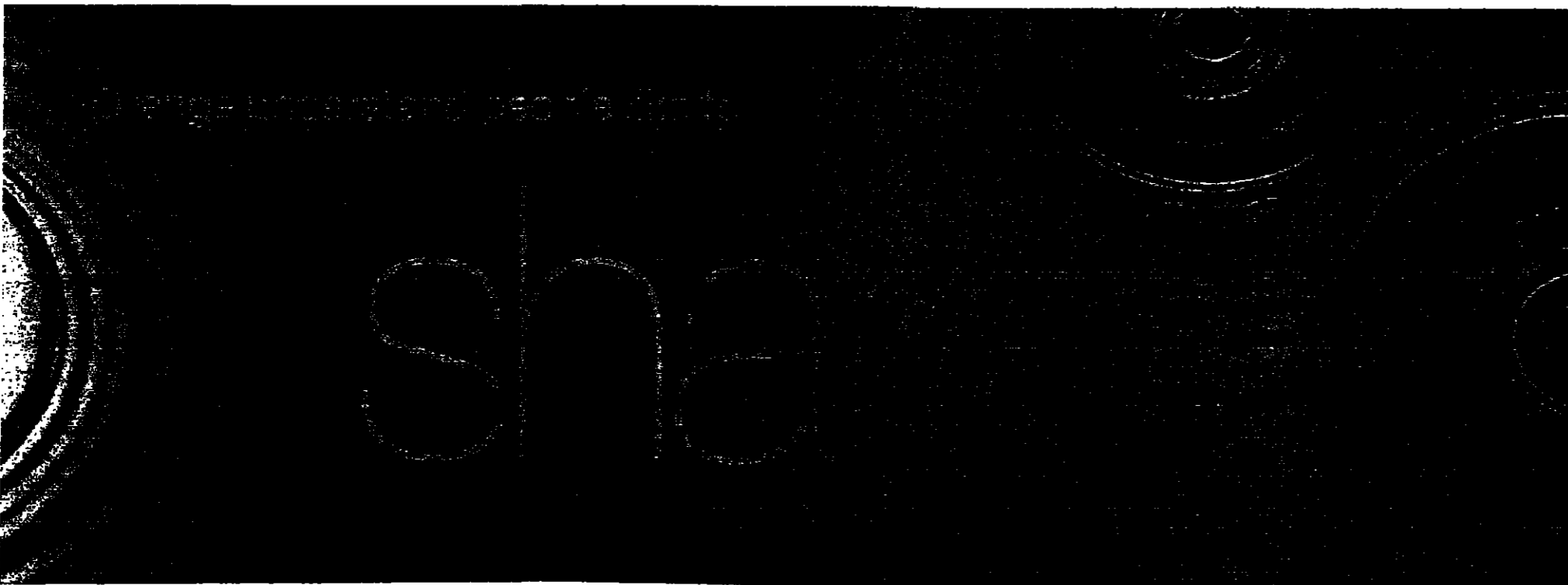


ation of the muscles in the heart, so that its output per beat is reduced. The effects of this would be accelerated by weightlessness.

The heart rhythm in elderly people is also more likely to become irregular if subjected to various stimuli, which would include the excitement and the inevitable apprehension that a rocket launch

would induce. It is only a few months since the captain of the Russian space station Mir, considered old although he is only in his forties, suffered from an irregular heart rhythm when difficulties overwhelmed his craft.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD



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# Ratings emergency drives network to pay \$850m for 'ER'

THE alchemy of snappy writing, men in scrubs and fake blood has produced the richest deal yet for a prime-time television drama.

Twenty-two new episodes of ER, the long-running series set in a Chicago casualty department, have been bought by NBC for an astonishing \$850 million (£515 million). It guarantees Warner Brothers, which makes ER, profits of \$200 million a year on the series for the next three years.

George Clooney, Anthony Edwards, Julianna Margulies and the other actors playing a host of attractive nurses and doctors are expected to demand vastly increased salaries as their agents contemplate a sevenfold increase in Warner Bros' earnings for every hour of ER. For its first four years, the series cost a mere \$2 million per episode.

NBC, which has broadcast the programme since its conception four years ago, stunned rival networks as well as Wall Street in agreeing to the asking price of nearly a billion dollars after just a week of "cordial" negotiations.

**Programme-makers braced for actors' pay demands as TV show breaks records, Giles Whittell writes**

The deal follows a disastrous month for America's most profitable TV operation. In December Jerry Seinfeld, the star of his own top-rated sitcom, deprived NBC of its other flagship series by announcing that his current series would be his last, despite being offered \$5 million per episode to continue. This week the network lost broadcasting rights to American football for the first time in 33 years.

The huge sums paid by all four networks reflect what one senior executive called "a period of great desperation in television". Squeezed by mounting competition from cable

and satellite networks, the big players are being forced to pay whatever producers dare to ask for the few television shows guaranteed to bring viewers in huge numbers.

NBC is now expected to lose up to \$300,000 per episode of ER even though, with an average of 31 million affluent viewers a week, it commands over half a billion dollars for a 30-second advertising slot. ER is still considered worth the price for the knock-on benefit of boosting ratings for the rest of the night.

ER "was cheap at any price", Dennis Holt, a leading buyer of advertising air time, told yesterday's Los Angeles Times. "If you had to have brain surgery, you wouldn't negotiate the fee."

Actresses such as Britain's Alex Kingston are expected to do just that, however. Currently on \$50,000 per episode of ER, she is suddenly in a position to command much more. Clooney, who earns nearly \$200,000 an hour, and Edwards, on \$150,000, will have to delay demands for wage increases because of binding contracts.



The cast of ER: George Clooney, Eriq La Salle, Sherry Stringfield (who has left the programme), Anthony Edwards, Gloria Reuben, Noah Wyle and Julianna Margulies. Clooney and Edwards are paid \$200,000 and \$150,000 an hour respectively

## Drug-abuse actor buys star treatment at soft-regime jail

BY GILES WHITTELL

CHRISTIAN SLATER, the actor and convicted drug abuser, has proved once and for all that in California some inmates are more equal than others.

Sentenced to 90 days for assaulting his girlfriend and an officer after a drug binge, the Broken Arrow star began serving his time on Wednesday at a minimum-security suburban jail where prisoners wear their own clothes, eat their own food and make phone calls from their cells. Fresh-faced and 28, Slater is paying \$60 (£36) a night to avoid the grim prison violence of Los Angeles Men's Central

Jail. Instead he reported to La Verne correctional centre, nestled under the San Bernardino mountains, 30 miles east of Los Angeles. Here he will share a spacious 400sq ft cell with up to three others.

The actor's three-month sentence had been delayed until after the Hollywood premiere of his latest film, a badly reviewed thriller entitled *Hard Rain*, which co-stars the British actress Minnie Driver. At the premiere Slater told reporters: "I'm just grateful to be here." At La Verne he will be grateful for a non-too-demanding regime: eight hours of paid chores a day, among them washing police cars and mopping floors.

As the actor was hustled in by a back entrance, officials fended off suggestions from a media throng at the front that he was getting star treatment. "This is nothing special," Captain Ken Swank of the La Verne Police Department said. "We've had this trustee programme for close to ten years. We make it available to all prisoners as long as we have room."

In principle, suburban jails are indeed available. They are usually full, however, and few can afford motel rates for their whole sentence.



Slater: hit girlfriend while high on drugs

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# Suharto signs tough rescue deal with IMF

**Indonesians face job cuts, higher prices and social unrest, reports James Pringle**

PRESIDENT Suharto yesterday signed a new deal with the International Monetary Fund for a massive bail-out which, in effect, means dismantling an economic system he had put in place. But the price is high. The 71-year-old President, a dotting father, has pledged to eliminate special business privileges for his six sons and daughters and trusted business cronies.

What the IMF calls "difficult and painful" measures will mean growing unemployment and hardship for many of the nation's 202 million people, with the possibility of more social unrest like the riots that broke out in east Java this week, diplomats say.

The world's longest ruling leader after President Castro of Cuba, Mr Suharto announced in a rare live television broadcast that he had signed an agreement with Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director, accepting its revised formula in exchange for a \$43 billion (£26 billion) bail-out to rescue the Indonesian economy.

What M Camdessus called a "bold and far-reaching" programme requires sacrifices from virtually all sectors of society, including the privileged elite, who have benefited from the patronage of Mr Suharto, in power for 32 years.

The President has agreed to end all special tax, customs and credit privileges for an unpopular national car project and a clove distribution monopoly, both of which favoured his youngest son, Tommy. Lately few Indonesians have wanted to drive the car, the Timor, which was able to undercut competitors by 50 per cent.

Mr Suharto, who broadcast from his home in Jakarta, also agreed to halt wasteful government financing of a controversial aircraft project that was the brainchild of his close associate, Jusuf Habibie, the Minister for Research and Technology. Carrels in cement, paper and plywood which benefited other cronies would also be scrapped. Fuel

and electricity subsidies will be phased out and there will be wide revisions in the country's 1998-99 budget, scaling down growth to zero in the fiscal year starting April 1 and projecting inflation at 20 per cent. Increases in paraffin will be kept to a minimum, to protect the poor.

"Today is a special day for Indonesia," said Mr Suharto, who did not mention last week's panic shopping at supermarkets when shelves were cleared, or the plunge in the currency, the rupiah, which has fallen 75 per cent since July.

In turn, M Camdessus noted: "I am confident that if this programme is implemented with the determination and commitment that I myself have seen, Indonesia should be able soon to begin to overcome its economic crisis."

The IMF official said his thoughts went "to those who may experience hardships — hopefully for a short period of time — because of the very

strength and rapidity of the adjustment process".

Reaction to the agreement was mixed. The Jakarta stock market kept cool and was down 4.1 per cent on the day, shedding recent gains on reports that the IMF negotiations were going well. International financial analysts remained cautious about the likelihood of all the promised reforms being implemented.

One Western banker said: "I am still pessimistic, especially about Indonesia's short-term prospects. I am not convinced that President Suharto will implement everything he promised today, and even if he does it will be very painful for this country." He added: "If we don't see progress by the end of next week, I think the rupiah could well plunge below 10,000 [to the US dollar] again. He will have to move extremely quickly this time."

A main reason for Indonesia's recent economic meltdown was that financial markets believed Mr Suharto was stonewalling over implementing IMF reforms he agreed in October. A stockbroker economist said: "Mr Suharto does not have a good track record of reform so I don't think that market confidence will return until we see some concrete steps, particularly in the finance sector."

An Asian diplomat was concerned about the cancellation of infrastructure projects. "Many of these were designed to give masses of people jobs," she said. "Once they are stopped, tens of thousands of people will be unemployed, not making any money, and social unrest will become a real possibility."

Desy Ediwati, an economics student at the University of Indonesia, was ecstatic. "Fingers crossed, this will be the beginning of the end of the first family's domination of our corporate sector."

One British businessman told *The Times* that he thought Indonesia could emerge stronger from the bail-out, and that "a lot of rotten apples would fall from the tree".



Suharto: pledge to end family's privileges



The 4,400-ton cargo ship *New Baroa* shortly before sinking off the South Korean coast. Two Philippine sailors were killed and 18 others were missing as a result of the accident. The

## Shipwreck leaves two dead and 18 missing

vessel was heading for Papua New Guinea with 5,000 tons of cement yesterday when it sent a radio message

that it was sinking 700 yards off the coast at Ulsan. Two bodies were found washed ashore during a 12-hour

search, and two empty lifeboats were later discovered on a nearby shore. Police said there were no signs that

any survivors from the Panamanian-registered ship had come ashore. A storm warning was in effect when the ship sailed from Okke, on South Korea's south coast, early yesterday. (AP)

## Thai Army asks people for gold

Bangkok: The Thai Army is launching a nationwide campaign to collect donations of gold and jewellery from the public to help the nation overcome its economic crisis, a senior officer said yesterday.

"By doing this, the army wants to create patriotism among the people: to show that Thai people are ready to fight the economic war," said Major-General Lertrat Rat-anavachit, the director-general of the civil affairs division.

The appeal for voluntary donations is expected to raise at least one tonne of gold. The move follows a similar campaign in South Korea, which raised millions of pounds within a matter of days. (Reuters)

## Widow launches drive to clear Gandhi of bribery

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SONIA GANDHI dared the Indian Government last night to prove the involvement of her late husband, Rajiv Gandhi, in a multimillion-pound corruption scandal. She told 50,000 people at an election rally that the former Prime Minister had been wrongly implicated in a payoff deal with Bofors, the Swedish arms manufacturer.

This raises the election stakes. A whispering campaign has suggested that Gandhi, who was Prime Minister at the time of the 1990s affair, was one of many politicians and top bureaucrats who took backhanders from Bofors, which secured Indian government contracts for field guns worth £802 million.

"My husband has been a victim of malicious slander in the Bofors case," she said. "Since my husband was killed, six governments have come and gone, five of them belonging to the Opposition. Yet the truth is to be revealed. The company allegedly paid near £30 million into secret Swiss accounts to secure the contracts."

This is the first time Mrs Gandhi, 51, has spoken about the controversy since Gandhi's assassination near Madras in 1991, after which she

rarely appeared in public except in connection with events surrounding the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, which she established to carry out good works in honour of her husband's memory.

The scandal was responsible for Gandhi's defeat in the 1989 general election and destroyed his clean image — an image not shared by his mother, Indira Gandhi, who is blamed for starting the decline in Indian political standards.

Sonia Gandhi, speaking in the southern city of Bangalore, appealed for voters to back her



Gandhi: says husband was victim of slander

husband's Congress Party. The ghost of the Bofors affair has stalked the Gandhi family and contributed to the rapid decline in its fortunes. Various official inquiries have failed to uncover any of the big names involved, probably because they traverse party lines.

With so many people tainted, no party has felt able to claim the moral high ground, save for the Communists — the last people with a clean reputation in Indian politics.

A helicopter showered rose petals on the crowds before Mrs Gandhi spoke — an expensive, ostentatious gesture that confirms her as the leader of the party's election campaign, although she is not fighting for a parliamentary seat. Clearly the party is hers if she wants to take it over, although she has displayed no desire to do so. Sitaram Kesri, the party president, said he would gladly stand aside.

Mrs Gandhi has been concentrating on southern India, where she could tip the scales in marginal seats. Her tactic has been to pull on the Congress Party's history, citing Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, in the hope that the party's past will compensate for its more recent failures.

## Cambodia wins EU poll cash

FROM CAROLINE GLUCK IN PHNOM PENH

THE European Union has signed an agreement with the Cambodian Government to provide £6.5 million towards helping to organise the forthcoming elections. It is the first international body to agree to help to fund the July poll.

The UN-sponsored elections in 1993, the first democratic election to be held in Cambodia in decades, cost nearly £1.25 billion. But several governments, including the Japanese and the US, have said a necessary condition in any assessment of the polls being free and fair was the return to Cambodia of the country's First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who was ousted from power by his rival Co-Prime Minister, Hun Sen, in July.

The EU money, the largest overseas funding, will help to pay for voter registration and towards training electoral monitors. The Cambodian Government has been adamant that the elections should go ahead on schedule, but observers, concerned that the polls will be used to legitimise the grab for power by Hun Sen, say that while the elections themselves may be technically clean the political climate is far from neutral.

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# 'We were ignorant about sex but had more fun'

As a child, Mary Wesley defied her parents. At 85 she is still an unrepentant rebel, breaking taboos. Interview by Grace Bradberry

Mary Wesley had a replacement hip this summer and made a very bad invalid indeed. She chuckles as she recounts her behaviour. "I found myself so irritable because I'm very independent. I said to my two younger sons, 'Please, when I come out of hospital, remember where you picked something up, and put it back in the same place, because I won't be able to move around. Did they pay any attention? Neither of them did. I found myself sitting here shouting, 'Where are my pens? pencils? It wasn't their fault, they were both trying,' she says sweetly — and eyes me closely for signs of shock at the F-word.

She has been described as intimidating, brusque, even chilly. (I don't find her any of these, though she is certainly spry of mind.) She is old, of course — 70 when her first novel, *Jumping The Queue*, was published, and 85 now — and famous for breaking the taboos constructed around her generation: they should not remember sex, let alone speak or write of it.

How does she react to the news of a woman of 60 having had a baby? "I think it would be absolutely awful to start having a baby at 60, much too much like hard work," she replies, and I'm reminded that sex in Wesley's books is a hugely enjoyable experience. "Bad enough when you're young," she reflects. "I think it would be terrible. Apparently she's got grandchildren who will be years older than the baby. It's close to a miracle — but a horrible surprise. I should have thought."

Unexpected pregnancy and the eliding of generations are

themes in her latest book, *Part of the Furniture*, one of her darker novels, and one that reflects Wesley's lonely childhood rather than her later, colourful life.

She has never written an autobiography, and makes a wary interviewee. She paints herself as a shy woman, lacking in self-esteem — "You grow a sort of carapace where you appear to have confidence, but you're the same jelly inside." Some who have met her have disputed this self-portrait, and she in turn

**'It would be awful to start having a baby at 60'**

describes one of her previous interrogators as "utterly ruthless". She shudders before giving a wicked account of the interviewer's behaviour in her beautiful old house in the centre of Totnes, filled with small 20th-century paintings and artistic china.

Wesley's reticence is a lifelong habit, born, she says, out of her relationship with her mother. "She once told me if she had to have another child she would have wanted a boy. She adored my sister and adored my brother, but she and I never got on frightfully well. She always tried to prevent me doing anything I wanted to do. I used to keep things hidden because I was

rather frightened of her. Whatever I did she seemed to disapprove.

"I started having love affairs at 18 or 19, which were very innocent. She would question me but I wouldn't tell her."

The men she fell in love with were generally "very bright and very left wing" and would give her Bertrand Russell to read. One of them died fighting Franco in the Spanish Civil War. Her parents, who were very conventional, and very right wing, knew nothing of this. "I don't think my politics dawned on them for years," she says.

She is still resentful of the reticence that left her generation ignorant about sex. Her first period came as a complete surprise. Hadn't her sister warned her? "She was amazing, she never told me a thing." At the age of 19 she drove to the South of France with her brother and the girl who was to become his wife. "She and I went to the lavatory and she shouted over, 'Have you learnt any more facts?' And I yelled back, 'No'. You found out nothing until you got engaged to be married and then went to be fitted with birth-control apparatus, and even then... But men behaved very much better and didn't leap on you. They kissed you and stopped at a certain point."

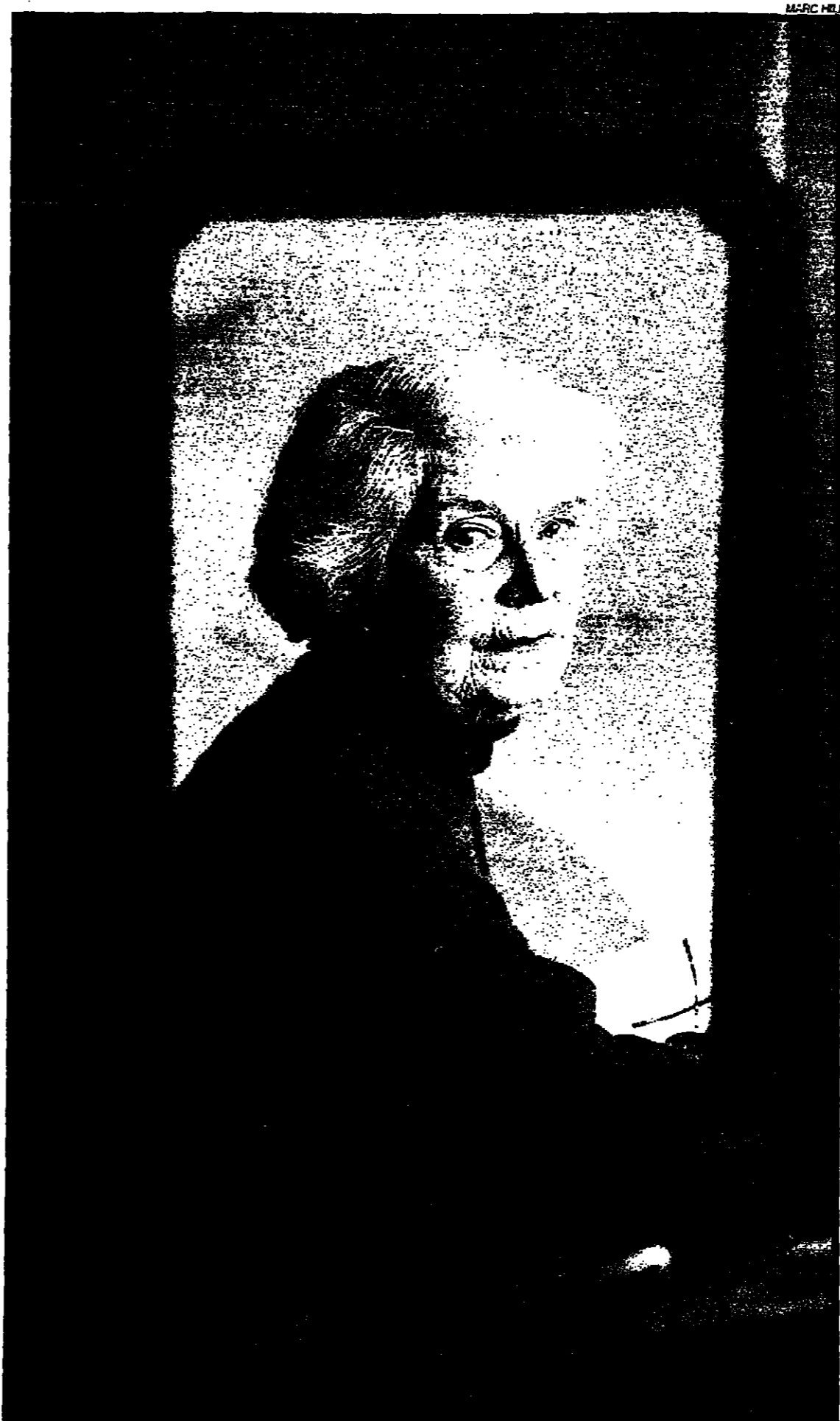
Wesley lost her virginity at 20, but thinks this was unusual. "I did it to try and find out, and didn't find out very much. I asked a friend who was married how she was getting on. She said, 'We're trying but we're finding it very hard.' They were both so innocent and ignorant they didn't know how to make love."

She married Lord Swinfen, a barrister ten years her senior, who had a large house in London's Ovington Square but bored her terribly. The liaison baffles her: "I think I got my knickers in a twist. I had rather a large choice at one moment, and my first husband was always there and I gave in out of sheer exasperation. He was extremely nice, but he told me he was a very busy barrister and then I found out he never had a brief. It was hard to maintain respect for him."

The Second World War saved her. She took lovers and found employment, first driving ambulances, then working at the War Office for John Bolitho, the man who made a map of Normandy based on the nation's holiday snaps. She is famous for her joyous accounts of sex in the Blitz. "Because it was illicit it was more fun — there was a lot of fun for my generation. We broke out. The war was liberating for my generation of women."

Once, walking through the black-out with a lover, she passed her husband. She never knew if he saw them. "The war lived things up and made it possible for many people to have affairs."

When she became pregnant for the second time, she left her job at the War Office and went to Cornwall, where she and a friend shared a nanny. "It was both very happy and very unhappy. I used to keep nipping off to London and so did my friend. At the end of the war I decided I didn't want to go back to my husband. It made it easier to break away. "I didn't want to hurt him. I didn't have anybody else I wanted to marry, but I wanted to escape and be able to think things out. Everybody told me I was mad. I had no money, no qualifications, I was scared but I was very determined — I knew I could not stay married to him. I thought I'd turn into a very nasty person if I did."



Wesley's latest novel draws on her lonely childhood rather than her later, colourful life

# Waging war on the wardens

TRAFFIC wardens are a surprisingly sensitive breed. They spend their working lives making other people's lives a misery, but at the slightest criticism they whimper and come over all hard done by.

Earlier this week, Chris Evans, the DJ and part-owner of Virgin Radio, aimed some pretty soft words at a traffic warden who had been hounding him. For several days the warden had waited beside Evans's green Bentley which was parked on a meter in Soho while he broadcast his breakfast show. At precisely 9.30am, when the parking restrictions came into effect, the warden slapped a ticket on it.

Finally, on Tuesday, as the traffic warden sloped into view at 8.25am and was accosted by reporters, one of Evans's assistants jumped into the car and drove off before it received another ticket.

Evans said of Westminster Council's warden No 1288: "He's already given me one ticket and I was three minutes late. Yesterday I was only 30 seconds late and he still did me. He's the meanest traffic warden in London — he's devilish."

In response, 1288 said: "He is bullying me. Other people can't exactly use a radio station to get back at anybody, can they?"

The traffic warden's words reveal the secret policy guiding all council parking services: they make fighting them so awkward that they hope most people will just pay up without complaint.

The sheer ease and abandon with which wardens issue tickets is in inverse proportion to the difficulty of contesting their actions. Letters of complaint are frequently ignored and calls are met with robotic voicemail. Treated like bothersome Soviets, it is no wonder that sane, law-abiding people are reduced to vein-popping fits of helplessness.

Apart from car-towing and clamping, there is no single civil or criminal offence in Britain for which one has to pay the penalty before having the right to appeal.

If you have your car towed away in London, the parking service offers no freephone number to call and no service to take you to the pound, which is always in some highly inaccessible place. They then demand more than £130, several times the fine for a normal speeding offence, with no right of appeal until you have handed over the money. Evans's Westminster Council takes in around £20 million a year in parking fines.

Councils have realised that parking fines are a terrific source of revenue. Keeping routes clear for emergency services is a tiny part of their work. Most instances of clamping, towing and ticketing are plain extortion.

If they want motorists to stop being mean to traffic wardens, the councils should stop using them as shields and come out and explain themselves to those they torture in anonymity. Until they do, their subjects will refuse to accept their subjugation. It is war.

PHILIP DELVES  
BROUGHTON

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 15: Prince Edward, Patron, Ocean Youth Club, this evening visited the London International Boat Show and afterwards attended a Reception at Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London SW5.

Memorial service

Mr Colin Dryden A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Colin Dryden, former motoring correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, was held yesterday at St Brides, Fleet Street, EC4A.

Service dinner

Liverpool Service Dinner Squadron Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cousins, Air Member for Personnel and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief RAF Personnel and Training Command, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of Liverpool Service Air Squadron held last night at RAF Woodvale.

Lecture

Anglia Sports Law Research Centre Mr Edward Grayson, Visiting Professor of Sport and the Law at the Anglia Sports Law Research Centre at Anglia Polytechnic University, yesterday delivered his inaugural lecture on the Law: A return to Corinthian Values? at Lord's. He was introduced by the Vice-Chancellor, Mr Michael Malone-Lee.

ant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor). Her Royal Highness, President, this evening attended the Save the Children Fund International Financing Review Annual Awards Dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London W1.

University news

London Royal Holloway Professor Chris Smith has been appointed to the new Read Chair in Organisational Behaviour in the School of Management. He joins Royal Holloway from Aston University, where he was a Senior Lecturer in the Aston Business School.

Dinner

Marketers' Company Dr Robert A. Hood, Master of the Marketers' Company, presided at the installation dinner held at Stationers' Hall last night. Alderman Sir Christopher Leaver and Mr John Petersen, Senior Warden, also spoke. During the evening the Master presented the Mace Prize to Ms Lisa Pollard for the best performance in the intensive diploma course of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, and an award to Ms Vicky Gardner for the best marketing project in the Henley-Brunel Modular MBA scheme. Among others present were:

Birthdays today

Mr Colin Banks, graphic designer, 6; Sir Alastair Blair, former writer to the Signet, 70; Mr Richard Burrows, chairman and chief executive, Irish Distillers Group, 52; Air Marshal Sir Robert Craven, 52; Sir Robin Dunn, former and Justice of Appeal, 80; Professor Roy Foster, FBA, Irish historian, 49; the Right Rev Michael Henley, Bishop of St Andrews, Dundee and Dunblane, 60; Professor Sir Peter Hirsch, FRS, biologist, 78; Professor Elaine Murphy, professor of psycho-geriatrics, 51; Mr R.L. Ormond, director, National Maritime Museum,

59; Miss N.S. Peppard, race relations consultant, 76; Mr K.H. Shackleton, artist and naturalist, 75; Professor Sir Frederick Stewart, FRS, geologist, 82; Lord Thomson of Monifieth, KT, 77; Mr Cliff Thorburn, snooker player, 59; Miss Christine Truman, tennis player, 57; Lady Vazey, art critic, 60; Professor Sir William Wade, QC, FBA, former Master, Governor and Caus College, Cambridge, 80; Mr James Watson, former chairman, National Freight Consortium, 63; Mr Michael White, theatre and film producer, 62.



Hopeful members of the chorus were at the Albert Hall yesterday to audition for a £2 million production of Madam Butterfly which will be staged there next month with a cast of 60, an orchestra of 75 and a stage crew of 100. The hall will be flooded with 15,000 gallons of water to create Butterfly's Japanese water garden

Archaeology

Where the wealthy lost most of their teeth

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT HUMAN remains found during repairs to a Chester church show poor dental health and a range of physical afflictions. Although St Mary-on-the-Hill lay next to Chester Castle and was the burial place of several important families, most of the parishioners had poor dental and general health.

Latest wills

Ronald William Diggins, company director, of Moor Park, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £7,340,831 net. Earl Cadogan, of Dunkeld, Scotland, left estate valued £5,813,367 net. Sir Henry Post, of Chippenham, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £4,535,368 net.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard Savage, poet, London, 1697; Hester Puzell, writer, Bodval, Caernarvonshire, 1740; Francis Talma, actor, Paris, 1763; Sir Ian Hamilton, general, 1857; Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson, actor-manager, London, 1853; Fulgencio Batista, Cuban revolutionary leader, 1890; Ernest Shackleton, explorer, 1874; Fulgencio Batista, Cuban revolutionary leader, 1890; Ernest Shackleton, explorer, 1874.

Archaeology

Other illi included skeletons with arthritis in the back and hips, fused vertebrae — probably from the effects of hard labour — and in one case an injured kneecap. New bone had formed, perhaps following infection after a blow to the knee. The investigators suggest that it may have been an early football injury.

Church news

Appointments The Rev Timothy Anderson, Priest-in-Charge, Wolverhampton St Luke (Lichfield); to be Vicar, same benefice. Prebendary Samuel Ashton, Rector, St Leonards w Orrop, Garway, Treire w Michaelchurch and Pencoed, Welsh Newton w Llanothlai (Hereford); to be Priest-in-Charge, Cradley St James, Maltham St John the Baptist (same diocese).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.P. Davidson Smith and Señora D. Estelita The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Davidson Smith, of Rochester, East Sussex, and Diana Dávila, of Mexico City.

Horticultural awards

The Royal Horticultural Society offers a number of awards each year for excellence in horticulture. (Alan Toogood writes). The Victoria Medal of Honour, the society's highest accolade, is awarded to British horticulturists resident in the United Kingdom.

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BIRTHS: On January 10th 1998, to Jane (née Giffin) and Alan, a daughter, Rebecca Alice, a sister for Henry.

DEATHS: CAMPBELL - Jean, peacefully at home on January 15th, aged 94. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

Shares confound traders by making late recovery

THE ability of the equity market to daily confound traders as to which direction it moves is quite remarkable. Despite the growing prospect of another rate rise, a depressed bond market and opening losses on Wall Street, share prices closed on a firm note. The FTSE 100 index put in a late surge to finish a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 58.9 to 5,165.8 in heavy turnover of 921 million shares.

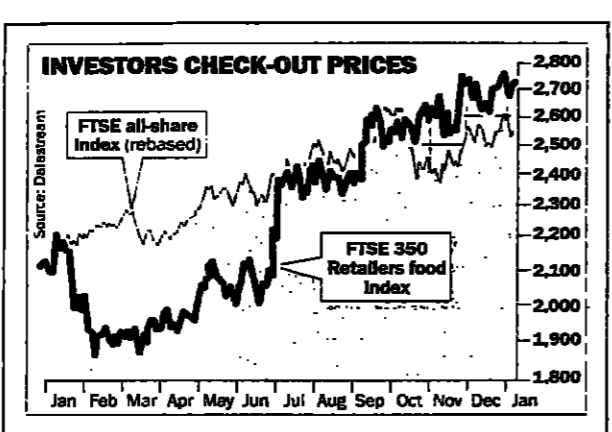


Saurabh Srivastava, of IIS Infotech, acquired by FI Group, whose deputy chairman, Hilary Cropper, saw shares rise 5p

One leading broker said: "There appears to be no rhyme or reason to this performance. The next rise in interest rates may prove to be the top of the cycle, but that isn't saying much."

The best performer was Centrica, up 7p at 103p on fresh institutional demand, with 13.3 million shares traded. Sun Life & Provincial was another strong performer, adding 29p at 99p on a "buy" recommendation from Dresner Kleinwort Benson.

Cadbury Schweppes continued to respond to this week's news that it has extended its distribution contract with Coca-Cola another five years with a jump of 14p at 503p.



SPECULATIVE buying which had pushed Somerfield up to a new peak of 251p on Wednesday evaporated yesterday as rumours of a bid showed signs of abating. Somerfield finished the day 2p cheaper at 248p with no sign of the 300p-a-share bid widely talked of by the speculators.

The broker, altered its recommendation on the shares from a "buy" to a "hold". The profits warning from Portmeirion left the shares 52p down at 240p. The surplus in 1997 is expected to drop from £6.4 million to £5.4 million.

Global Group also fell 3 1/2 p to 94p on the back of a profits warning. The Government's ban on beef on the bone and the Asian crisis has hit profits and means they will now come in at between £1.7 million and £2 million, against £4.1 million in the previous year.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices: New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo (Nikkei Average), Hong Kong (Hang Seng), Amsterdam (AEX Index), Sydney (ASX), Frankfurt (DAX), Singapore (Straits), Brussels (General, CAC-40), Zurich (SIX), London (FT 30, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, etc.)

RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues: Abbey Nat Dublin II, Bond Int Software, Boustead, General Inds, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of rights issues: Calluna n/p

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of major changes: RISES (Xenova, BT, etc.), FALLS (ICI, etc.), NEW YORK (Long Gill, etc.)

TEMPUS

Don't keep it with Kodak

IF YOU want to know what deflation really means, have a look at the world's most famous photographic equipment company. Kodak is being forced to cut the price of its little yellow and black boxes in order to keep volumes moving, and there are signs that pressure on the company could increase.

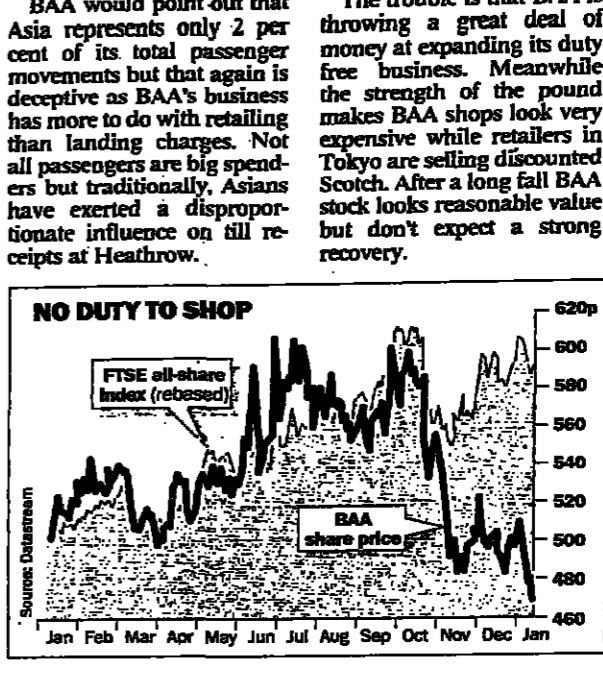
BAA

FOR a utility, BAA has done a cracking job in disguising itself as a nifty service company. Up until the last few months traffic volumes were bounding ahead of expectations. How many utilities can boast growth at more than twice the rate of the economy as a whole?

Life insurers

THE life insurance sector is on a roll, driven higher by rumours of mergers and takeovers. Impressive figures from Legal & General provide further evidence that life companies had an exceptional year in 1997, with sales of pensions and endowments up sharply.

forecast that the first quarter would show an earnings decline. Fuji is the villain — Kodak has been attacking its competitor, complaining that it enjoys unfair advantages in its huge home market while the Japanese company can make hay in the open fields of the US.



Wage inflation is putting pressure on profit margins throughout industry and competition is hurting sales growth. It is unlikely that the UK blue chips in which investors are so heavily invested will show the same spectacular growth this year.

Table of LIFFE (London) market data: COCA, ROBERTS COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK

Table of LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES: Long Gill, German Gov Bond, Italian Gov Bond, etc.

Table of DOLLAR RATES: Argentina peso, Australian dollar, Canadian dollar, etc.

Table of MONEY RATES: Base Rates, Treasury Bills, Prime Bank Bills, etc.

Table of FTSE VOLUMES: JF, ASDA, Abbey, etc.

Table of EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%): Currency, Dollar, Swiss Franc, etc.

Table of LIFFE OPTIONS: Call, Put, etc.

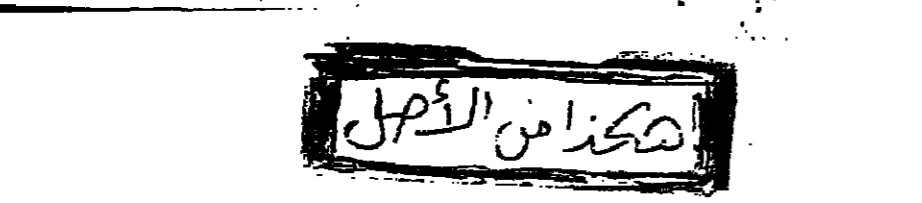
Table of GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co): Bullion Open, Close, High, Low, etc.

Table of STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES: Mkt Rates for January 15, etc.

Table of FTSE INDEX (%): FTSE 100, FTSE 250, etc.

Table of GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co): Platinum, Silver, Palladium, etc.

Table of STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES: Mkt Rates for January 15, etc.





THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, price, and change. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

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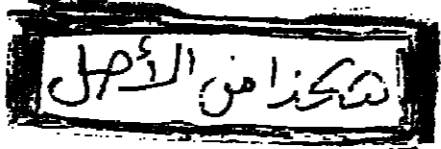
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RUGBY LEAGUE

Murray has ingredients for Leeds to succeed

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

NO SOONER had Graham Murray arrived from Australia to take charge of Leeds Rhinos yesterday than he was made aware of two decades of under-achievement at Headingley, where such illustrious English coaches as Malcolm Reilly, Maurice Bamford, Peter Fox and Doug Laughton all came to grief.

Sometimes it is not enough for the team to win, as Murray, 43, the club's first Australian coach, was reminded by the story of Derek "Rocky" Turner, who won everything for Leeds but the Challenge Cup in the Seventies and was dismissed for not producing sufficient flair.

Murray envisages an "attacking, entertaining style". At Illawarra and in leading the now-defunct Hunter Mariners to the world club championship final, he proved himself an alchemist with base-metal talents.

In Iestyn Harris, Adrian Morley and Richie Blackmore, Leeds have the talented individuals to be highly competitive in the new season, which begins in four weeks' time, and Murray looks to have brought with him a fine utility back from Hunter, Brad Godden.

Far from being a poisoned chalice, Murray said: "Everyone wants some silverware, but the players just have to perform week in, week out and the rest will take care of itself." Patience by the club and its supporters has been in short supply, but there are no time limits on Murray, who has an open-ended contract.

Gary Hetherington, the Leeds chief executive, said: "In 15 months, the club has gone from being terminally ill to one that's in training for gold in the Olympics, as it were." Hetherington, too, signalled an end of the "moneybags" tag that accompanied the failed attempt by Leeds to buy success. "With an odd exception, we will be producing our own players," he said.

Worried Davies pleads women's case

JOHN HOPKINS



Golf Commentary

The news this week that the 1998 European men's Seniors' Tour will have 25 per cent more events than it did last season, which means that 17 have been added since the start of 1996, throws into even sharper relief the plight of the continent's women professionals.

In a telephone call from Florida, where she was preparing for a tournament, Laura Davies said that she was doing everything possible to find one or more new sponsors for a tour that is shrinking at such a pace that it has only seven events confirmed for the coming season. American Express and Hennessy, two of its blue-chip sponsors, have departed.

"I'm desperate, not just for myself but for the younger girls who want to play in Europe," Davies, speaking from a practice ground at Grand Cypress resort in Orlando, said. "This is make or break for us. I'll do anything I reasonably can to help. The sponsors have got to be given the right package. They have to be made to feel important. I do not think we have done that enough."

"There is no point in having another six events, each worth £100,000. They might be good for some of the younger players, but for the rest of us they are a waste of time. What happens is that after a year or two the good players don't come back, then the sponsors lose interest and then they pull out."

"We have been losing sponsors too quickly. The way ahead is for us to have more quality events. We want one or two tournaments that cost £1 million to put on and offer purses of £300,000."

To this end, Davies spent much of her Christmas break talking to would-be sponsors. "They are big companies and there is a lot of interest, though no one has come through with a firm offer yet. If I get one tournament I'll be ecstatic."

"I will play in every event they want — if it is a quality tournament. But I am not going to rush home to a £100,000 event in Portugal."

It is a conundrum why the seniors' tour, started in 1993, can forge ahead so successfully while the women's tour, which has been in existence since 1979, has gone from a peak of 27 tournaments in 1988 to 15 last year, including



Davies, who escaped from this hazard, has her work cut out trying to reinvigorate the European Women's Tour

one team event. In six weeks' time, Terry Coates, the chairman and chief executive, will step down and there is no successor in view.

Andy Stubbs, the managing director of the seniors' tour, whose members will be playing for £2.5 million next season, an increase of £500,000, said: "We have had good ambassadors and we have never oversold ourselves. We have sold the tour as a whole, not on the strength of a few individuals. Many of our tournaments are 54 holes because this enables us to maximise our assets — our players — by having two pro-amns."

"With 40 pros each playing with three amateurs each day, 240 amateurs are involved over two days who are potential customers of the sponsor.

Say the overall cost to the sponsor is £250,000, that is a cost per amateur of just over £1,000. That seems a pretty good figure to me, far cheaper, for example, than flying customers to Barbados."

I have enjoyed playing in pro-amns with women professionals as much as with the seniors. Both tours have provided friendly, skilful partners, though when I played with Keith Waters, the deputy managing director of the seniors' tour, he did not make the offer that I and my teammates received on the first tee the day we played with Jenny Lee-Smith. "Right," she said. "It's a kiss for a par, a cuddle for a birdie and eagles are by negotiation."

Coates believes that there will be at least 14 events this season and that dithering by prospective sponsors is nothing more than common business practice. "Several are in the last stages of negotiation," he said. "But it's like running any business. You can't count anything until the customer's money is on the table."

Surely it does not need repeating how many good women professional golfers there are from Europe. Exclude the magnificent Davies for a moment, and you are still left with Alison Nicholas, the No 1 in Europe and the holder of the US Open, and Annika Sorenstam, who topped the US money-list after six victories. Europe's leading women professionals have been much more successful in the US than their male counterparts. That such talent might have virtually no home tour on which to compete hardly seems right. Are there no Sir Galahads out there?

HOCKEY

Cannock hope to learn from past

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

LIFE at the top could prove difficult for Cannock as they face a succession of challenging matches in the National League premier division, which resumes on Sunday after the winter break.

Cannock, who are six points clear, start with a home match against Reading and then meet Southgate, Teddington, East Grinstead and Reading again.

Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, said: "I would have been happier if we had had a chance to train, but we had so many players away with the England training squad in Sicily that we shall have to pick up from where we left off. We were in a similar situation last year, but we did not play well and I am hoping that, this time, we will learn by our mistakes."

Chris Mayer, a resourceful wing forward, was unwell in Sicily but is expected to play against Reading. Edwards, a reliable defender, has recovered from a knee operation and is in the squad.

Reading, seven points adrift in fourth position, are struggling to retain their title. Robert Todd picked up an injury in the recent Los Reyes tournament at Barcelona, where Reading finished second to the Canada national team. His brother, Andrew, is struggling to recover after being hit on the nose against Doncaster in the last match before the break. Manpreet Kohar and Howard Hoskin are back to full fitness, but Mark Hoskin is unavailable.

Southgate should push forward with a full squad on their visit to Barford Tigers. Three Southgate players, Simons, Woods and Waugh, returned hale and hearty in midweek from the England training camp in Sicily.

Hounslow can expect a hard match when they entertain Canterbury, whose scoring potential is built around Hacker in midfield.

Surbiton, the first division leaders, should win away to Oxford University.

Chelmsford confident of making amends

BY CATHY HARRIS

CHELMSFORD have featured in more national indoor club finals and semi-finals than they care to remember, without winning the title, and are determined to provide a remedy when the national indoor league resumes at Crystal Palace this weekend.

The only other previous champions — Slough, the holders, Hightown and Ipswich — should clinch places in the last four, and Chelmsford could win their last four games to progress in style.

Dave Passmore, their ambitious coach, said: "We should defeat Leicester and Olton and haven't lost to Ipswich in two seasons. I also think we're stronger than Hightown, who will be missing their England outdoor internationals. Tina Cullen and Carolyn Reid."

Lorraine Marsden, the former England player, has joined the club's indoor squad and her experience alongside the skill and leadership qualities of another international, Lynn Bollington, has given added confidence to the team.

Maggie Souryave, the England coach, has not replaced Tammy Miller after her surprise withdrawal from the squad that leaves for a seven-match tour of Australia tonight. England play the world and Olympic champions in internationals in Perth on January 30 and 31.

ENGLAND: J. Binson (Loughborough Students), S. Baraka (Leicester), K. Bowden (Leicester), K. Brown (Slough), M. Cawley (Canterbury), L. Copeland (Slough), T. Cullen (Hightown), J. Emson (Canterbury), F. Greenham (Olton), F. Miller (Leicester), K. Moore (Olton), J. Mould (Leicester), C. Reid (Hightown), R. Ross (University of Huddersfield), J. Stannish (Slough), C. Todd, J. Smith (Slough), L. Wright (Olton).

THE TIMES

SATURDAY  
20P

Tomorrow, make a date with the Saturday Times, including the new 100-page glossy magazine.

دكان من الصحف





Game's disfigured face needs urgent cleansing

Up and down the land this weekend, boys, and indeed girls, will be encouraged to pick up the ball and run.

There were several other unsavoury incidents in the early rounds of the Heineken Cup as well as in domestic fixtures closer to home.

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The sport is not as big as it sometimes thinks

The rugby authorities appear complacent

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

competing television companies, give the impression of thick-skinned complacency.

What happened at Bath was remarkable. That is precisely the point. The "biting" incident that resulted in Simon Fenn, the London Scottish

forward, undergoing surgery to his ear was worth remarking upon, and at some length.

union has hidden areas where no eye can probe.

Palmer plunders second bronze behind teenagers

FROM CRAIG LORD IN PERTH

PAUL PALMER defeated the Olympic and European champions in setting a British record in the 400 metres freestyle at the world championships here yesterday.

Palmer, who hails from Lincoln but trains in Bath, has won a medal at every leading championship since winning the European junior title in 1991.

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Palmer: British record



Kovacs powers on towards a gold medal and championship record in the 200 metres-breaststroke yesterday

Sweden lead boycott of Beijing

MOMENTUM grew for an international boycott of China yesterday after the suspension of four swimmers found to have taken a substance used to mask performance-enhancing drugs took to 28 the number of doping offences by Chinese swimmers this decade.

Sweden led the way by announcing a boycott of the Beijing round of the World Cup next month, while others, such as Germany and Australia, are considering following suit.

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ICE SKATING

Russians remain on collision course

ICE dance, a sport in which good manners, courtesy and consideration were once almost as important as the performance, appears to have changed radically.

SNOOKER

Rift leaves Open in the shade

A BLACK cloud of political infighting and alleged mismanagement of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) hangs over the Regal Welsh Open, the first world-ranking event of the year which begins in Newport today.

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, BOWLS, CRICKET, and Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe.

Table with columns for FOOTBALL, AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION, and other sports results.

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Table with columns for ICE HOCKEY, ICE SKATING, and MOTOR RALLYING.

Table with columns for SWIMMING, RUGBY UNION, and TENNIS.

Table with columns for SNOW REPORTS, listing depth, conditions, runs to resort, weather, and last snow.

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